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A NEW
H I S T O R Y
O F
E N G L A N D;

FROM THE INVASION OF
JULIUS CÆSAR,
TO THE ACCESSION OF
G E O R G E III.

Adorned with CUTS of all the Kings
and Queens who have reigned since
the Norman conquest.

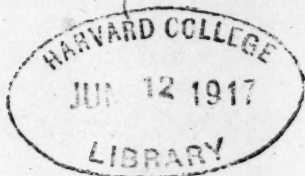
*The memory of things past ought not to be ex-
tinguished by length of time nor great and
admirable actions remain destitute of glory.*

Herodotus.

G L A S G O W :

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and J. DUNCAN, Booksellers. 1782.
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TO THE
YOUNG GENTLEMEN and LADIES
OF
GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND
THIS
HISTORY OF ENGLAND

Is humbly inscribed,

By their most obedient Servant,

THE EDITOR.

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A

DESCRIPTION
OF
GREAT BRITAIN;
WITH

Some Account of its CONSTITUTION and GOVERNMENT.

THE island of Great Britain is of a triangular form; the angles whereof are the Lizard Point to the West, Sandwich to the East, and Straithyhead to North. The seas that surround it are the CHANNEL to the South, by which it is separated from France; the GERMAN OCEAN to the East, which divides it from Flanders, Denmark and Germany; the NORTH, or FROZEN SEA to the North;

6 A DESCRIPTION OF

and the Irish Sea to the West. It is in length about 530 English miles, and its greatest breadth about 290.

This island contains the two ancient kingdoms of England and Scotland, which were united under one Monarch in 1603, and into one kingdom in 1707. There are also bordering as it were upon this island several other isles, which are subject to the same Monarch, and are therefore considered as a part of Great Britain, But Ireland, which is an ancient conquest of the kings of England, as will be seen in the course of this history, is considered as a separate kingdom tho' subject to his Britannic Majesty.

The south part of this island, called England, is divided from Scotland by the rivers Tweed and Solway, and the mountains of Chiviot; and received that name from the Angles, or people of Lower Saxony, who were invited over by the Romanised Britons about the year 450, to assist them in their wars against the Picts, or southern Scots.

Great Britain and Ireland are finely situated with regard to health and defence; and their soil is so fruitful, that it produces all the conveniences of life; and even affords many articles of luxury, of which, future his-

torian

torians will I am afraid, say, that the present inhabitants were too fond. They have all sorts of useful animals in abundance, and very few that are noxious. They have great plenty of fruits and herbs; and corn in such quantities, that Great Britain has been called, by way of eminence in this respect, the granary of Europe. The earth also in many parts abounds with lead, iron and other minerals, and Cornwall is famous for producing the best tin in the world. Strabo says, there are mines of gold, but I believe the old Geographer was mistaken; however there are in Wales some veins of silver, and pit-coal enough to supply all the nations of Europe. The horses, oxen and sheep are excellent. They have great plenty of wool, which is the best in the world for making cloth; and the trade for their woollen manufactures is very extensive, as is that of their linen, hard-ware, and other commodities. They have indeed no wine of their own growth, yet more is supposed to be drunk here than in the whole kingdom of France; and what is prett^y extraorⁱinary, more than is imported; they have, however, most excellent beer, and cyder in great plenty. Perry has been made here in such perfection,

8 A DESCRIPTION OF

that when kept to a good age, even the French themselves have mistaken it for Champaign. Scotland has a manufactory of linen, that is in great repute; and a fishery, which might be the richest in Europe if well conducted. Ireland has also a manufactory of linen, that is deservedly in high esteem; and they have black cattle, sheep, and excellent wool, in great plenty.

The trade of these kingdoms can only be estimated by their number of shipping, and their imports and exports, which are amazingly great.

The air of these islands is so healthy, that those natives, who cannot afford to eat and drink too much, frequently live to the age of an hundred, and we have one instance of a man I mean Henry Jenkins, who lived to the age of one hundred and sixty-nine: The air, however, is in general very foggy, especially about London, where it is almost a rule, that if there is no fog in the morning, it rains in the afternoon, and a morning's fog generally produces a fine day.

I shall say but little of the character of the inhabitants: every man knows his own constitution best. I am an Englishman, and an encomium from me might be suspected.

I must

GREAT BRITAIN. 9

I must observe, however, that they are, upon the whole, a very good people; yet here, as in other places, odd compounds are to be met with. They are for the most part ingenious and industrious, generous and humane, strong and brave; rather kind, than civil to strangers; faithful and friendly; they are great lovers of liberty, which, however, they do always endeavour to preserve by the most prudent means; and one thing I must take notice of, which is rather the effect of inconsiderate wantonness than a bad heart, we see, and especially among the lower class, daily instances of inhumanity to animals.

The government of England is a compound of * Monarchy, Aristocracy, and Democracy

* By Monarchy, I mean that form of government, where the whole power is invested in the king, and who has therefore the disposal of the lives and fortunes of his subjects.

Aristocracy is, when a few of the best and chief of the people, in conjunction, rule and govern the rest.

Democracy is, when the government is in the hands of the multitude, and the fathers of families assemble in council, to make laws and manage the affairs of state.

10 A DESCRIPTION OF

mocracy, consisting of a king, and two houses of Parliament, that is to say, the Lords spiritual and temporal; and the Commons, or the Knights of the Shires, Citizens and Burgeſſes: But this is ſaid with regard to the legislative power only, the whole executive part being inveſted in the Crown. There is alſo the Upper and Lower Houſes of Convocation, compoſed of the Archbishops, Biſhops, Deans, Archdeacons, and ſome Proctors, to repreſent the clergy of each dioceſe. This national ſynod of the Clergy, which is almoſt conſidered as an eſſential part of the conſtitution, is convoked whenever a parliament is called, to take care of the ſtate of the church; but tho' regularly convened they have not been permitted to enter upon buſineſs for many years. The houſe of Lords is the ſupreme court of judicature; and appeals may be made to the Lords from all inferior courts both in Great Britain and Ireland. But the Commons, by preſerving themſelves the power of giving money to the Crown, are become the great barrier to the liberty of the ſubject. Theſe grants they make only once a year, and have ſince the Revolution, obliged the Crown to call them together annually for that purpoſe.

Th

GREAT BRITAIN. 11

The Crown of Great Britain is hereditary but not like that of France, for in default of male issue, female succeeds to it: A difference in religion, however, or non-observance of the laws, may set aside the nearest in blood; for the people have often broke in upon the line of succession, to preserve their religion and privileges. But in these cases the crown has been transferred by parliament to a branch of the same family, and great care has been always taken to prefer the next of kin, if duly qualified.

The established religion of England is reformed Episcopacy, as it was perfected and confirmed by Queen ELIZABETH; but Protestant dissenters of all denominations are allowed the free use of their religion, as also are the Jews, who have here public synagogues. There are in England two Archbishops, and twenty-four Bishops; two Universities, deservedly esteemed throughout the world; and a great number of public schools, and hospitals for objects of charity.

The eldest son of the reigning king, and next heir to the crown, has, ever since the time of king Edward the first, been called the PRINCE of WALES. And he has, for the support of his court and dignity, an allowance

12 A DESCRIPTION OF

lowance from the civil list, which is a certain annual revenue granted to his Majesty for the support of his household, separate and distinct from what is appropriated for the different purposes of government.

Scotland before the Union, was a compound of three estates not unlike that of England; and when the Stuart family came to the crown of England, a Commissioner was usually sent from London, on the meeting of the Scotch parliament, to represent the king. But since the Union, the Scots, who have no parliament of their own, send sixteen Lords and forty-five Commons to represent them in the parliament of Great Britain. The established religion of Scotland is Presbytery.

Ireland was governed by its own King till the year 1172, at which time it submitted to the obedience of Henry II. King of England. It has been ever united with England in the manner Scotland was, but is still a distinct kingdom, governed by a Lord Lieutenant from England, who represents his Majesty in their parliament, which is composed of the Peers spiritual and temporal; and Knights, Citizens and Burgeses, in the manner of that in Great Britain. Here

are

GREAT BRITAIN. 13

are four Archbishops, and eighteen Bishops, who are all of the Church of England.

It is one invaluable part of the British constitution, that every man, in criminal cases, is to be tried by his Peers; that is to say, by his equals, or a jury of twelve men, who are indifferently chosen out of a much larger number, and to any of these the prisoner may object, if he think them prejudiced against him, and have them changed for others whom he thinks more impartial; which is a great bulwark against tyranny and oppression.

OF

OF THE
 ANCIENT STATE
 OF
 BRITAIN

THIS Island was formerly called Albion, probably from its white cliffs, and Britain, as is conjectured, from BIRTH, an old English word that signifies painting the skin; it being a custom among the ancient Britons to paint their naked bodies, and small shields, of an azure blue colour, which was by them called BIRTH, by which name it was supposed the inhabitants themselves were distinguished by strangers who came to trade in the island. To this the Greeks added the word Tanie, or country, and formed Brithtane, or the country of painted men, which, with a little variation, was changed into Britannia by the Romans.

It is to be observed, that the Britons not only painted their skins, but likewise de-

picted

picted on their bodies figures of the Sun,
Moon, Stars, &c. in the manner here re-
presented.



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Whether these people were Aborigines, Gauls, or Trojans, is uncertain; for they took no care to transmit their origin to posterity; or if they did, their writings have perished. The only account therefore, of the ancient Britons that can be depended on, is that given us by Julius Cæsar, from whom take the following extract: "The inner part of Britain, says he, was inhabited by those whom tradition records to be originally produced in the island and the sea coast, by those who came out of Belgium, or the Netherlands, either to make incursions or invasions, who, after the war was ended, continued in the possessions they had gained, and were called by the name of the cities from whence they came. The country is very populous, and well inhabited, with houses much like those in France. They have great store of cattle, and use brass for money, or iron rings weighed at a certain rate. In the midland part there is found great quantities of lead and tin, and in maritime parts, iron; however they have but little of that, and their brass, is brought in by other nations. They have all sorts of trees which they have in France,

France, excepting the Beech and the Fir. Their religion will not suffer them to eat either hare, hen, or goose; notwithstanding they breed them all, as well for novelty as diversion. The country is more temperate, and not so cold as France. Of all the inhabitants, they of Kent are most courteous and civil; all their country bordering upon the sea, and little differing from the manner of France. Most of the inland people sow no corn, but live upon milk and flesh, and are either clothed with skins, or naked. All the Britons in general paint their flesh with blue, to the end they may seem more terrible in fight. They have the hair of their head long, but all other parts of their body are shaven, except the upper lip."

The ancient inhabitants of this island, though it was divided into several cities, and states, seem to have consisted only of the three sorts of men whom Cæsar calls Equites, Druids and Plebes, answering, as we may suppose, to our Nobility, Clergy and Commonality, the last of whom had no share in the government, and were but a sort of slaves or dependants on the other two.

The Equites were considered in their several states as Princes or Chiefs, and had authority, power, and a number of followers, in proportion as they excelled one another in birth and wealth; each Chief being, we may suppose, not unlike the head of a clan in Scotland, or of the Septs in Ireland; and this seems to have been the original state of government, not only here, but in other parts of the world, and was deduced from the natural force and right of paternal dominion. The men had the power of life and death over their wives, children and slaves, and none were permitted to speak of matters of state, but in assemblies held for that purpose.

The Druids so called from the British word *Deru*, signifying an oak, (either because their sacred places were in groves of oaks, or from the physical virtues they attributed to the mistletoe, which grew on the oaks) had the whole care of their laws, religion and learning; for a knowledge in which the people applied to them, and held their persons in great veneration. Cæsar tells us, that the learning of the ancient Druids had its source in Britain: whence it was transferred to France, and that even in

his

his time, those who were willing to attain a perfect knowledge of their learning and discipline, travelled into Britain for that purpose, whence we may conclude, that the Druids of Britain and France taught the same doctrine. The chief of the Druids had great authority, and was a sort of President over the rest, and at his death, he who excelled in dignity, generally succeeded; but when there happened to be several equals, the President was chosen by election, and sometimes by force of arms.

The Bardî, or Bards, were Druids, or Priests of an inferior order, whose principal business was to celebrate the praises of their heroes in verses, which they set to music, and sang to their harps.

The Ubates were also Priests of an inferior degree, who as Strabo tells us, employed themselves in the study of philosophy and the works of nature.

These Druids met once a year at a time and place agreed on for the execution of their laws; when all persons who had controversies of right and wrong, or who had criminals in charge, came for their determination. They had a supreme power either to punish or acquit; and if any person

refused to obey their decree, he was excommunicated, that is, divested of all his rights both religious and civil, and hated by all men. Their worship was much like that of all other idolaters; Mercury was their principal God, whom they adored as the inventor of arts, the conductor of voyages and journeys, and as the disposer of gain and merchandize; Apollo they adored for his power in healing diseases; Minerva for communicating knowledge; Jupiter for governing the celestial empire; and Mars for his aid in battle, to whose use they generally consecrated the spoils of war, and sacrificed such beasts as were taken from the enemy and sometimes in extreme danger they even sacrificed their criminals, and for want of them their innocent slaves, by putting them alive in wicker images of prodigious magnitude, which being made of osiers were set on fire that all might be consumed together. The doctrine of the Druids was principally intended to teach men, *The might and power of the immortal Gods: and, That the souls of men did not die, but transmigrate or pass from one to another after death;* which last tenet was thought to stir up men to virtue and valour, and enable them to cast off the fear

of death. Their learning consisted principally in philosophical and astronomical enquiries concerning the stars and their motions, the magnitude of the earth, and the world, and the nature of things in general; to which perhaps may be added, from their application and veneration of the mistletoe, a knowledge of diseases and the method of cure. But this their science was, by their law concealed from the common people, and therefore no part of it was transcribed, but committed to the memory, and retained in an infinite number of verses, which they often repeated: a knowledge of their science, therefore, when a person was admitted into their class, required great study and application; and even with that was not to be attained, perhaps in less than twenty years. Their other transactions, whether public or private, were usually recorded in the Greek-tongue, of which language they were possessed when Cæsar invaded Britain.

OF THE

Invasion and Government

OF

BRITAIN BY THE ROMANS.

AMbitious men to avoid the imputation of cruelty, endeavour to draw from justice and equity a colour to disguise their actions; this was the case with Cæsar, whose pretence for invading Britain was, that they had assisted the French with forces to be employed against him; and that Mandubratius, a British Chief, applied to him for succours against his uncle Cassibelanus or Cassibalaun, who had murdered his father king Lud, as is generally supposed, though Cæsar calls him Imannentius. For this, or for other reasons, that are too obvious to be concealed, Cæsar, after having enquired into the state of the island, sent

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Volufanus in a galley to find out the best landing places, while he with two legions, containing 8000 foot, and eighty ships, besides gallies sailed from Calais in the night, and the next morning arrived on the coast of Britain; where the inhabitants who had heard of his coming, were ready to receive him and attacked the Romans so furiously, as they attempted to land, that they failed in their usual courage, which one of their ensigns, or Eagle-bearers, perceiving, jumped overboard, and with a loud voice cried, *Follow me, brother Soldiers, unless you will forsake your standard and betray it to the enemy; as for my part, I will do my duty to my country and my General.* Upon which those that ship immediately followed, and pressing hard on the Britons, the battle by degrees became general and bloody; at length, however, the Romans got footing on the island, and put the inhabitants to flight, but were not able to follow them for want of their horsemen, whom Cæsar had ordered to embark in eighteen ships at St. Omer's, and who by a sudden storm were driven back, and so dispersed, that not one arrived.

The Britons, after this engagement, dispatched messengers to Cæsar to intreat for

24 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN*

peace, promising hostages and obedience; and many of their Princes and Rulers came to commend themselves and their states to him; whereupon a peace was concluded four days after his arrival. But the Britons, being afterwards informed that Cæsar's horsemen were driven back, and the ships that brought over his army almost destroyed by a tempest, thought proper to rebel; sending therefore messengers up into the country, to inform their friends what a favourable opportunity they had of perpetuating their liberty, and of even obtaining a considerable booty, they collected a body to attack the Romans, and several skirmishes ensued. Cæsar in all these encounters, endeavoured only to keep them off, till he could repair his shattered fleet to return to France; but the Britons, having by degrees strengthened their army with a great number of horse and foot, boldly attacked the Romans in their camp, and the battle was very obstinate and bloody; but the Britons were at last put to flight, and pursued for a considerable distance by the Roman soldiers, who burnt all the towns they could come at that day, and then returned to their camp. Upon this the Britons again sent messengers to Cæsar to in-

treat

great for peace, which Cæsar again granted them, on doubling the number of their hostages, with whom, as the winter was at hand, he sailed immediately for France.

The next Spring, however, he returned to Britain with 800 ships, and an army of six legions, containing about 20,000 foot and 2000 horse. The Britons, notwithstanding they had given hostages, collected an armed force on the cliffs near Dover to receive him, but were so terrified at the prodigious armament of the Romans, that they retired twelve miles towards Canterbury. Cæsar followed, and they for a long time bravely contended for their lives and liberties, but were at last obliged to give way. Cæsar could not pursue them, being under a necessity of returning to his fleet, which a tempest the night before, had almost destroyed. The damage however, he repaired in ten days, and to prevent future accidents of that kind, hauled up all the ships on shore and inclosed them in his camp. During the ten days Cæsar was thus employed, the Britons who had many states and kings, whose interests so interfered, that they were at continual war with each other, united their forces, and unanimously chose Cassivellanus,

King

26 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN*

King of the Trinobantes, for their Generall, the
and this Prince with his brave Britons, gave riot,
Cæsar as much trouble as ever he met with, and
and more abundantly than he expected, for both
days passing even for a whole summer, but to
what they had battles on each side of the river to
ver Thames; and the Britons by means of the
their fortified woods and war chariots, destroyed
stroyed great numbers of their invaders. wa

Cæsar tells us, that in these chariots the
Britons rode about, and cast their weapons
as an advantage offered; that the terror of
their horses, and their wheels much disor-
dered his forces; and when they had run in
between any troops of horse, they alighted
from their chariots, and fought on foot: the
charioteers in the mean time posting them-
selves so, that their masters might retire to
them in case they were overpowered. Thus
these chariots, some of which had a sort of
scythe fixed to them to mow down their e-
nemies, performed in fight both the nimble
motion of horse, and the firm stability of
foot; and the drivers were by daily practice
grown so dexterous, that they could stop
their horses on the descent of a steep hill
and turn them short, or direct their courses
with great ease; and what is also extraordi-

nary,

ner, they could run along the pole of the
 , gale, riot, rest upon the yoke or harness, and
 t with again at pleasure

d. fe, both Cæsar, however, and his forces had
 r, b, fortitude, for they had been long inu-
 he n, to war; and Cassivellanus, being at
 ans, with forsaken by most of his confederate
 s, d, and Chiefs who had revolted to Cæ-
 s. was obliged, not only to make terms
 ts th, Mandubratius, but to sue for peace in
 apor, name of the whole people; which was
 or c, chased at the expence of a yearly tribute,
 difor, a number of hostages; with which Cæ-
 un i, left the island, and never returned again.
 ght, during this war, it is said that he took
 : th,ulam, the chief town belonging to Cas-
 them,lanus.

ire to This is Cæsar's account of the invasion,
 Thus, by his account (which we may suppose
 rt o, not written in disfavour of himself or
 air e, his followers) it appears, that the Britons
 nible, made a brave struggle for liberty, which has
 ty o, been dear to the inhabitants of the is-
 Etic, land, and which they probably would have
 stop, gained even against the immortal Cæsar,
 hill, had not some private negotiations been set
 our, on foot, to take off the other Princes from
 ordi, uniting their forces with those of Cassivel-
 ary, lanus;

lanus; and even as it was, Cæsar had enough of the Britons, and was sick of the enterprize, or he would never, after all the advantages he mentions, have departed quietly with a few simple hostages and the promise of a trifling tax, without fortifying a single place, or leaving any garrison in the island. Nay, Lucan takes him with turning his back on the Britons, and Horace and Tibullus both intimate, that in their day the Britons were considered as a free and unconquerable nation.

After this, Britain continued tributary to the Romans near 500 years, but they frequently rebelled and refused to pay. It was first refused to Caligula, the fourth Emperor after Julius Cæsar, who was so incensed at the indignity, that he went against them himself; but either his courage or his force was insufficient for the undertaking, and therefore, being afraid to attempt an invasion, he made his soldiers load their helmets with pebbles and cockle shells, and returned in a very ridiculous manner, triumphing with what he called the spoils of the Ocean. But Aulus Plautius, and Ostorius Scapula in the reign of Claudius, so far subdued the Britons, that they carried their King Carac

taci

as in triumph to Rome, who, on seeing
 riches and magnificence of that city, re-
 ved their avarice, and asked, *How they,*
who were masters of such glorious things, could
be greedy after the mean huts and possessions
of the poor Britons. They rebelled again un-
 der Nero, who being left guardian to Queen
 Boadicea and her two daughters his officers
 abused their trust, and a revolt ensued, in
 which 80,000 of the Romans were cut off.
 In another battle, however, which happen-
 ed in consequence thereof, the Romans de-
 stroyed the Britons, and slew 70,000; which
 affected Queen Boadicea, that she de-
 ceased herself. In the reign of Flavius Vesp-
 asian, they rebelled again; and, in the
 reign of Domitian, they rebelled and killed
 a number of Romans; but were reduced by
 Julius Agricola, the Roman Deputy who
 killed 10,000 Britons, and subdued the
 whole island, except the mountainous parts
 of Wales and Cornwall, whither the un-
 conquered Britons retired, and preserved
 both their liberty and language.

The Britons, however, were scarce ever
 easy under this tribute, for they had, as
 Agricola himself observed, *An unconquerable*
spirit of Liberty; and whenever the Roman
 Deputies

30 *Of the Invasion of BRITAIN*

Deputies oppressed them, they generally rose, and put their garrisons to the sword. They also rebelled in the times of Adrian Antoninus Pius, and Commodus; and in the reign of Septimus Severus †, they destroyed 50,000 Romans. Many thousands likewise were killed in the time of Caracalla and Dioclesian. But on their rebelling under their King Coilus, in the year 307, the Emperor Constantius came over in person, and finding Coilus dead, married his daughter Helena, and had by her (born at Colchester in Essex) Constantine the Great, and the first Christian Emperor, in whose religion, 'tis supposed, he was instructed by his mother, the Britons having received the

Gospel

† This Emperor (who is said to have actually reigned here and died at York) built about the year 209, a wall of freestone, 80 miles in length, from the mouth of the Tyne to Solway Frith, on the rampart which the Emperor Adrian had before raised of turf about the year 120, in order to confine the Picts or Caledonians within proper bounds, and prevent their disturbing his Roman garrisons; part of which wall remains to this day.

IN general, since the death of Christ. This
since set the Britons and Romans on bet-
e sworn terms, for the former paid their tribute
Adrian, and the latter assisted them against
and encroaching neighbours the Picts and
they; but about the year 427, the Roman
household being in a manner over-run by the
f Carls, Vandals, and other nations, they
ling were obliged not only to withdraw their gar-
507, the ns from Britain, but to take with them
person of the British youth to assist them a-
his fast their enemies, which so weakened the
born a r Britons, that they became a prey to
e Great er nations, as will be seen hereafter.
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OF THE
 Reign of the SAXONS in ENGLAND
 AND OF THE
 BRITISH KINGS that withstood
 the HEPTARCHY.

WHEN the Romans left Britain it is supposed, as we have already observed, that many of the British youth went with them to the wars abroad, whence the nation was left in a manner defenceless; and the northern parts easily became a prey to the Picts and Scots. The Romans, indeed, came to the aid several times, and the last time they were here, assisted them in repairing Severus' wall; but this fence, joined to the force, being insufficient to keep off the powerful enemies, the distressed Britons were obliged to send into Germany to crave assistance.

LAN
ance from the Saxons; who, under the command of Hengist and Horfa, landed on the Kentish coast, in the year 449, and joining the Britons, soon routed their ene-
es.

hsto
As the Saxon leaders had fought with distinguished bravery, Vortigern, King of the Britons, rewarded them with possessions in Kent. Having thus gained a settlement in the kingdom, Hengist in a few years enlarged the bounds allotted him, and made himself King of Kent, the first kingdom of the Saxon Heptarchy.

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Islan
Encouraged by the success of these first adventurers, the Saxons came over in great multitudes, and soon let the Britons know that they intended to be their masters; to forward which base scheme, Hengist invited the British nobles to meet him on Salisbury Plain, under the pretence of making a treaty, and there treacherously caused them all to be slain. After this, more Saxons and Angles coming over to join their countrymen, they in a few generations conquered all that part of Britain which had been subject to the Romans, and at different times divided it into those seven kingdoms, which historians call the Saxon Heptarchy, viz.

C

I. Kent,

1. Kent, containing that county; Suffex, or South Saxons, containing Suffex and Surrey; 3. Wessex, or West Saxon, containing Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorsetshire, Somersetshire, and Devonshire; 4. Essex, or East Saxons, containing Middlesex, Essex, and part of Hertfordshire; 5. East Angles, containing Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire; 6. Northumberland, containing the six northern counties beyond the river Humber; and 7. Mercia, containing all the rest of England, which was therefore by far the largest. Each of these kingdoms had a continual succession of several Kings, who were ever at war with each other, as well as with the British Kings, for the space of 360 years, which occasioned various revolutions; but in the year 819, though some say 829, and almost 400 years after the arrival of the Saxons in England, Egbert, Duke of Wessex, or the West Saxons, reduced all the rest to his obedience, and became sole Monarch of England; which name he gave to his kingdom from a part of his Saxons, who were called Angles.

We are here to observe, that during this period there were thirteen British Kings, who with their people withstood the Saxon conquest.

Suffer, though obliged to retire into Wales;
 and Suroz. Vortigern, Vortimer, Ambrose, Pendra-
 containing on, Arthur, Constantine, Conatus, Verti-
 setshire. orus, Malgo, Careticus, Cadwan, Cadwal-
 Essex, and Cadwallader. And one of these, I
 , Essex. mean Arthur was so great a hero, that his-
 Angles. torians say he gained ten victories over the
 nbridge. Saxons, killed in one engagement 400 of the
 ning the. enemy with his own hand, and that he rava-
 er Hum. ged the country of the Picts: But at length
 the rest. Cerdic the Saxon, having supplies continu-
 y far the. ally crowded to his assistance, so far got the
 d a con. better of him, that the Britains despaired of
 who were. ever recovering their country, and retired
 as with. into Wales. Cerdic died in 334, at which
 00 years. time Modred, who was nephew to Arthur,
 ns; but. joined the Saxons and Picts, against his un-
 29, and. cle. Both the uncle and nephew met in an
 l of the. engagement, when Modred, was killed on
 of Wel. the spot, and Arthur received a mortal
 d all the. wound, of which he soon after died, in the
 sole Mo. 30th year of his age, and 34th of his reign.
 gave to. In the King, it is said, instituted the order
 ns, who. of *Knights of the Round Table*, so famous in
 romances. Rapin is of opinion, that these
 ing this. fictions arose from the affection and veneration
 ngs, who. the Britons had for him, who would not
 on con. believe him dead till his tomb was found in
 quest.

the reign of Henry II. 600 years after his decease.

After the death of Cadwallader, which happened in the year 689, the Saxons were left entire masters of England, and therefore we return to the Saxon Kings.

EGBERT the Great, properly called the first King of England, was the son of Alomund, and of the royal family of Wessex; but Brithric having usurped the crown he was sentenced to lose his head; he, however, escaped the fury of his enemies by flying to Offa, and afterwards to Charlemagne, King of France, and founder of the western empire. Upon the murder of Brithric in 801, he returned to Britain, where he was received with joy, and crowned, King of Wessex; and having in the several European courts learned all the arts of peace and war, he by the justice and clemency of his government, secured the affections of his people, and by their assistance conquered the Britons who inhabited the coasts of Cornwall and Wales; but these in after ages recovered their independency. In 823 he defeated Witglaph King of the Mercians, and having conquered his kingdom, he, in 825,
turned

turned his arms against the kings of Kent, East Anglia and Essex, and made himself master of their territories. In 827 he advanced against the Northumbrians who submitted without opposition, and the next year became the sole Monarch of South Britain; to which he gave the name of England. He remained in the peaceable possession of his extensive dominions till the year 833, when the Danes made a descent into England, and defeated the army he sent against them; but they did not long enjoy the fruits of their victory; for two years after, Egbert having routed them, drove them back to their ships; and they never dared to return during his reign. In short, he enjoyed his conquests about eight years, and died in 838, and was interred at Winchester.

ETHELWULF, the son of Egbert the Great, succeeded his father in 838. He had been bishop of Winchester, and was esteemed a pious, wise and peaceable Prince. The Danes invading England, and plundering London, he, in 851, cut most of them to pieces, and they returning about two years after, he gained two such signal victories

ries over them, that according to some historians, not one of the enemy escaped to acquaint their countrymen with the news. This King freed the church lands from all tribute and regal services; but afterwards going to Rome with his son Alfred, and being kindly received by Pope Leo IV. he rendered his kingdom tributary to the Papal See, and obliged every family in his dominions, to pay to the Pope one Shilling annually, which was called Rome's Scot, or Peter Pence, and was regularly paid about 680 years, *i. e.* till the reign of Henry VIII. On his return to England, he divided the kingdom in his absence, in order to avoid a civil war. He died in 857, after a reign of twenty-one years, and left behind him four sons, viz. Ethelbald, Ethelbert, Ethelred and Alfred; the two first of whom divided the kingdom; Kent, Suffex, Surry and Essex being bequeathed to Ethelbert, his second son.

ETHEL BALD had neither the piety nor valour of his father or grandfather, and was despised by his subjects. Soon after the death of his father, he married his mother-in-law, but after a reign of three years, dy-

ing

ing without issue, the whole kingdom devolved to his brother Ethelbert.

ETHELBERT was a wise, valiant and pious Prince. During his reign the Danes invaded England again, and burnt Winchester to the ground; but were soon after totally routed by Ethelbert. He reigned only six years, and died in 866.

ETHELRED I. who was a valiant, prudent, pious Prince, now ascended the throne; which he had no sooner obtained, than the Danes ravaged the east part of England, plundered the city of York, and wintered in Mercia. The next year they laid waste all the country till they came into Wessex, where nine several battles were fought; in one of which Ethelred killed one of their Kings, nine Earls, and a great number of common soldiers; but about fourteen days after, in another battle, the Danes routed his army, and Ethelred himself was slain (though some say, he died of the plague) in 872, and in the 6th year of his reign.

ALFRED the Great, so called from his great and many virtues, next ascended the throne. He was adorned with every qualification requisite to form a good King; and had, in the life-time of his three brothers, fought with distinguished bravery against the Danes; but was now so closely pressed by those numerous invaders, that he was obliged to compound with them for one part of his kingdom, and even of that, he was in a little time dispossessed; he was, however, dearly beloved by his people, among whom he wandered about in disguise, still watching the motions and behaviour of the Danes; and one day having dressed himself like a poor sinner, he entered the Danish camp, where beholding their negligence and disorder, he collected his scattered forces, and gave them such a total overthrow, that he brought them entirely under his subjection, and obliged them either to be baptized or to quit his dominions. Affairs being thus happily settled, he employed his time in making good laws, and encouraging Arts and Sciences; for which purpose he divided the natural day into three parts, eight hours of which he spent in study and contemplation, eight in affairs
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f state, and the other eight he allowed
himself for sleep, recreation, and the care
of his own affairs. He instituted juries, di-
vided the kingdom into shires, tythings,
and hundreds; he built and endowed two
magnificent abbies, rebuilt the city of Lon-
don, which had been destroyed during the
wars, in the year 886. He founded the
University of Oxford; and in the year 900
died in peace, aged 52, and in the 28th
year of his reign.

EDWARD, surnamed the Elder, suc-
ceeded his father Alfred; and tho' he was
inferior in learning, equalled him in valour,
piety and the love he bore to his subjects.—
He obliged the Welch to return to their al-
legiance; defeated the Danes, and kept
them in subjection; obliged Constantine II.
King of Scotland, to sue for peace, and to
do him homage; and having reigned twen-
ty-four years, died in 925.

ATHELSTAN, the natural son of
Edward, succeeded him on the throne, (the
legitimate Prince being very young) and
was beloved, not only by his people, but
by most of the Princes in Europe. In one
battle

battle which he fought with the Danes and Scots, he killed seven of their Kings or Chiefs, whose tombs are now to be seen at Axminster in Devonshire; he obliged Scotland and Wales to pay him tribute, and caused the Bible to be translated into English. In his time lived Guy Earl of Warwick famous for conquering Colbrand the Danish giant and champion near the walls of Winchester. This King died in 941 and in the sixteenth year of his reign.

EDMUND I. called the Pious, who was legitimate son of King Edward, next ascended the throne. He was a good Prince, and distinguished himself by his bravery and success against his enemies, and by adding many admirable laws to those of King Alfred. He defeated the Northumbrians, who had revolted, and gave Cumberland and Westmoreland to Malcolm King of Scotland: but obliged him to do homage for them. This king, in the year 947, and the 6th of his reign, was murdered at a feast by one Leolt, a vile fellow whom he had banished; and left behind him two sons, Edwin and Edgar, who were both thought too young at that time to succeed him.

EDRED

EDRED his brother therefore ascended the throne, who after he had reduced the Northumbrian Danes to his obedience, devoted himself to a religious life; built and endowed several churches and monasteries, and died in the year 955, having reigned about seven years.

EDWIN, the eldest son of Edmund succeeded his uncle Edred. He had a graceful person, whence he obtained the surname of the Fair; but being lewd and irreligious, his subjects rebelled against him, and made his brother King; upon which he died of grief, after a reign of four years.

EDGAR, surnamed the Peaceable, was crowned before his brother's death, and proved a most accomplished, valiant and prudent Prince. He recalled St Dunstan, whom his brother had banished, restored the privileges of the church, and lived in peace, by being always prepared for war. He defended the coasts with his fleet, freed the country from robbers, punished such magistrates as suffered themselves to be corrupted, travelled the country himself to administer justice, and changed the annual tribute

bute of specie and cattle due from the Welch into 300 wolves heads, and by that means entirely destroyed all those ravenous beasts. These prudent measures so increased his power, that without making war he assumed the title of Sovereign of the whole island, reduced all his neighbours to his obedience, and it is said, was rowed in his barge up the river Dee by eight petty kings. He reigned sixteen years, and died in 975.

EDWARD II. called the Younger, and the Martyr, succeeded his father Edgar; but being of a mild and easy disposition, he left the government of the kingdom in a great measure to his step-mother Elfrida; who, in the fourth year of his reign, had him murdered, while he was drinking on horseback, to make room for her own son.

ETHELRED II. who next ascended the throne, and was son to Edgar by Elfrida, was a covetous indolent coward. By a secret inhuman commission, he caused all the Danes to be massacred, who had settled in England; which induced Sweyn, King of Denmark to invade his dominions; and as Ethelred was despised, and hated by his subjects,

subjects, Sweyn easily prevailed, and having defeated his forces, obliged him to pay 10,000*l.* raised on the English by a tax called Danegit, with which booty Sweyn sailed to Denmark, but returned the next year with a more powerful army, and entirely conquered the kingdom. Upon this, Ethelred fled into Normandy; but on the death of Sweyn, which happened soon after, he returned, and died in England in the year 1016, having reigned thirty-seven years.

EDMUND II. his son, surnamed Ironside, from his extraordinary strength and valour, was one of the greatest captains of his age; but he had the misfortune to be opposed by enemies who were too powerful. He, however, gained three complete victories over the Danes under Canute the son of Sweyn, and obliged him to raise the siege he had laid to London. But not making a proper use of those advantages, and being imposed upon by the councils of his brother-in-law Edric, who sought his friendship only to betray him, he was afterwards defeated by Canute, and his affairs were in such a wretched situation, that his friends were

46 *Of the* REIGN *of, &c.*

were obliged to leave him, and submit to the conqueror. Edmund, however, collected together such of his subjects as still continued faithful, in order to engage the enemy, and perceiving Canute at the head of his army, rode off from his own forces to meet him; and Canute advancing with the same intent, a furious combat ensued, in which, neither having the advantage, they agreed to divide the kingdom between them. Poor Edmund, however, enjoyed his share but a few days, for that villian Edric, his brother-in law, got him assassinated by two of his domestics.

This he did to ingratiate himself with Canute, who being of a generous disposition, abhorred the action; and instead of rewarding Edric, ordered his head to be cut off the first opportunity he had, and fixed upon one of the highest gates of London. The valiant and good Edmund was murdered in 1017, after having reigned almost a year.

OF THE
DANISH KINGS

OF
ENGLAND.

THE Danes had contended for the crown of England upwards of 200 years, in which time were fought fifty-four battles by land, and thirty-eight by sea, besides skirmishes and sieges, attended with the loss of an infinite number of men; yet they possessed it only twenty-four years, under the three following Monarchs, viz. Canute, Harold and Hardicanute.

CANUTE the Great, on the death of Edmund, succeeded to the throne; being in the year 1017 elected King, notwithstanding Edmund and Edward, the sons of the late King Edmund, were living; and by this election,

election, an end was put to the war. Matters being thus settled, Canute began to ingratiate himself with his new subjects; and by rebuilding their cities, churches and abbeys, by lessening their taxes, and by entrusting them with the highest offices, and even with the command of his armies, he soon won the hearts of the English; by whose assistance he obliged the King of Scotland to pay him tribute, and conquered Norway. Though this King beheaded the traitor Edric, for the murder of Edmund, yet it is supposed that he himself was concerned in that diabolical deed; and that he afterwards sent away his two sons, Edmund and Edward, to be murdered, though they providentially escaped. We are told, however, that he sincerely repented of this crime, and built a church over Edmund's tomb, which place he called St. Edmund's Burry. Towards the latter end of his life, he became humble, just and truly pious. As he was one day standing by the sea-shore, a flatterer in his train told him, that he was King of both earth and sea: Upon which, sitting down, he ordered the tide not to wet his feet, nor proceed any farther: but staying there till the water surrounded him, he, turning to

the flatterer, said, *See here, how vain is earthly grandeur, and how weak all human force! God alone is King of the land, and of the sea, and him let us worship and adore.* This king died in 1036, after a reign of nineteen years, and left behind him three sons, Canutus, Harold, and Hardicanute; to the first of whom he bequeathed the kingdom of Norway, to the second England, and to the last Denmark.

HAROLD I. who succeeded to the throne in consequence of his father's will, was so impious, cruel, unjust, dissolute and mean-spirited, that his subjects were going to depose him, when death delivered them of their obnoxious burden. He died in the year 1039, and in the third of his reign.

HARDICANUTE was the third and last Danish Monarch that reigned in England, and was, if possible, a wretch of worse qualities than his brother Harold, whose body he caused to be dug up and thrown into the river Thames; which being found by a fisherman, was delivered to the Danes, and by them buried in the church called St. Clement Danes. He imposed an exorbitant tax

on the English of 32,147l. and plundered and burnt the city of Worcester for refusing to pay their portion of it. He died suddenly at a banquet in Lambeth in 1041, and in the third year of his reign, either of eating and drinking to excess, or of a strong poison, to the great joy of the English. The government of the Danes was now become so odious, that the chief men of the kingdom made a law, or at least entered into an agreement, that no other person of that nation should ever wear the crown; and that whoever proposed it should be looked upon as an enemy to his country, and guilty of high treason. This is the language of the historians: but how such a law or compact could be carried into execution, when the nation was so full of Danes, is to me amazing; and cannot be accounted for, unless we suppose the Danes themselves were tired of their own vicious kings. In short, this is one of the most dark and perplexing periods in the English history, and therefore we must leave it to those who have more learning and sagacity, as well as more room for disquisitions of this nature.

The SAXON LINE *restored.*

EDWARD III. surnamed the Confessor, and son of Ethelred, was on the death of Hardicanute, elected King; which was chiefly occasioned by the intrigues of earl Goodwin, whose daughter he had promised to marry. In his reign the Danes, Scots and Welch, entered England at different times, and committed great outrages; but Edward and his generals bravely defeated them all. Among these Generals mention ought to be made of Siward, earl of Northumberland, who routed the Scots, and killed Macbeth their King; and of Harold, son of Goodwin, who of his own accord, raised an army in the districts under his command, with which he vanquished the joint forces of Asgar an English Nobleman, and Griffin king of Wales, who had entered England, and plundered Hereford. When peace was restored to his dominions, he collected all the good laws made by his predecessors, whether Britons, Romans, Saxons, or Danes; and adding more of his own, formed them into one body,

which he called, *The Common Law of ENGLAND*. He built Westminster-Abbey (with a sepulchre for himself) and the church of St. Margaret, which stands near it. He was the first King of England who touched for the evil, and was by the church esteemed a great Saint; he was, however, guilty of some acts of cruelty; for he seized the possessions of queen Emma, his mother, and allowed her only a small pension for life: Nay, some historians say, that he accused her of being concerned in an infamous affair with Alwin, Bishop of Winchester, and that she was tried for adultery by the Ordeal or fiery trial; that is to say, nine red hot plough shares were laid at unequal distances, over which the criminal was obliged to pass blindfold, and barefooted; which she is said to have done unhurt, and was therefore declared innocent. But this, though asserted by some authors with great gravity, is too absurd and ridiculous to be believed. He refused to cohabit with his wife Editha, some say from a religious veneration of chastity; but the general and most probable opinion is, that he avoided her because she was, as it were, forced upon him by the intrigues of earl Goodwin her father,

ther, and that he could not bear the company of a woman, whose father had murdered his brother. Earl Goodwin knew that the King suspected him of being concerned in that murder, and, it is said, in order to clear himself of that suspicion, he one day, at the King's table, took up a piece of bread, and wished it might choak him if he was ever concerned in the murder of that prince, and died with the next morsel he ate. This story, however, is told but by a few historians, and the truth of it is to be doubted. He reigned twenty-four years, and died without issue in 1055, and in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

HAROLD II. son of earl Goodwin, was so well beloved by the people that he was unanimously elected King, notwithstanding that Edgar Atheling, grandson to Edmund Ironside, the right heir, was living; and that the late King had bequeathed the crown, by will, to his friend William, Duke of Normandy. Edgar was unable to ascertain his right to the crown by force of arms; but William Duke of Normandy, (whom Harold had once when in distress sworn not to oppose) sent ambassadors to reproach Ha-

54 *The SAXON LINE restored.*

bold with the violation of his oath, and to demand the crown; offering at the same time to leave the right of succession to the determination of the Pope, or to try it by single combat, which being refused, William applied to Tosti, who was Harold's brother, but sworn enemy, for assistance. As Tosti had married the daughter of Baldwin, earl of Flanders, that Earl lent him a body of forces, with which he landed in England, but was defeated: upon which Tosti applied first to the king of Scotland, and afterwards to Harold Harfager, King of Norway, and proposed to him the conquest of England. Harfager joined Tosti, and embarking his forces on board three hundred ships, came into England, and took York: but in a pitched battle Harold routed his whole army, and both Harfager and Tosti were slain. This success, it is thought, rendered Harold both insolent and careless, for he imprudently, and indeed unjustly, kept the whole plunder of the field, without distributing any part among his soldiers, upon which they grew discontented and unruly.

WILLIAM, Duke of Normandy, was all this time strengthening his army, and having obtained forces from the neighbouring Princes,

Princes, he fitted out a strong fleet, and on the 29th of September landed at Penvanſy in Suſſex; thence proceeding to Haſtings, he built a ſtrong fort, and, in the place called Battle-Field, engaged the army of Harold, when a moſt bloody battle enſued; which, tho' loſt, was fought with the utmoſt bravery by the Engliſh, notwithſtanding the diſlike they had conceived to Harold. In this engagement William had three horſes killed under him, and a great number of his Normans ſlain; and Harold loſt his life, together with the lives of many of the nobility and about 60 000 ſoldiers. Hiſtorians tell us, that the loſs of this battle was in a great meaſure owing to a long peace which the Engliſh had enjoyed, and in which they had neglected the military arts, and abandoned themſelves to luxury and idleneſs: and to this, we may ſuppoſe the licentiousneſs of the clergy, the effeminacy, gluttony and oppreſſion of the nobility, and the drunkenneſs and diſſolute behaviour of the common people, did not a little contribute. It is likewiſe to be obſerved, that the Normans had the advantage of the long bows, of the uſe of which the Engliſh were then ignorant. But notwithſtanding theſe, the

English with bills, their ancient weapons, kept so close together, that they were impregnable; and the Normans would never have obtained the victory, had they not pretended to fly, and by that means brought the English into disorder.

WILLIAM, notwithstanding this victory turned out so much in his favour, could have little hopes of gaining the throne by right of conquest, and therefore he gave out that he came to revenge the death of Prince Alfred, brother to King Edward; to restore Robert, archbishop of Canterbury, to his See, and to claim the crown as his right, it having been bequeathed him by Edward the Confessor. He cannot therefore, I think with any propriety be called the Conqueror, for these motives engaged many of the English in his favour, who considered that he had at least as much right to it as Harold, and they made him conform to their terms, and agree to govern them by the laws of Edward the Confessor, before they would admit him to the throne.

The body of Harold was found after the engagement, and buried in Waltham-Abby, which he had founded.

I. WILLIAM the CONQUEROR,
from 1066 to 1087.



WILLIAM a spurious branch of Rollo's race,
From Norman's Duke to England's K. we trace,
He conquer'd Saxon Harold, seiz'd the throne,
Was brave, but proud and partial to his own.

WILLIAM I.

Commonly called the CONQUEROR.

THIS Prince was the natural son of Robert VI. Duke of Normandy, by Aletta, a furrier's daughter, Harold being slain in battle, William, who was about 52 years of age, marched directly to London, where he claimed the crown by the testament of King Edward the Confessor. On his way to that city, he was met by a large body of the men of Kent, each with a bough or limb of a tree in his hand. This army was headed by Stigard, the Archbishop, who made a speech to the Conqueror, in which he boldly demanded the preservation of their liberties, and let him know that they were resolved rather to die than to part with their laws and live in bondage.

WILLIAM thought proper to grant their demands, and suffered them to retain their ancient customs.

Upon his coronation at Westminster, he was sworn to govern by the laws of the realm, and though he introduced some new forms,

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forms, yet he preserved to the English their trials by juries, and the borough-law. He instituted the courts of Chancery and Exchequer; but at the same time disarmed his English subjects and forbade their having any light in their houses after eight o'clock at night, when a bell was rung, called *Curfew* or *cover fire*, at the sound of which all were obliged to put out their fires and candles. He conquered several powers who invaded England; obliged the Scots to preserve the peace they had broken; compelled the Welch to pay him tribute; refused himself to pay homage to the Pope; built the Tower of London; and had all public acts made in the Norman tongue. He oppressed the people by taxes, and made a law by which every man who killed a deer was to have his eyes put out. He caused all England to be surveyed and rated, and the men numbered in a work called *Doomsday-book*, which is still in being.

To curb the insolence of the French, who had invaded Normandy, and after that to reduce his son Robert, who appeared there in arms against him, he carried over with him an English army, and left his own troops at home. William in a general engagement

gement had like to have been killed by his son; but Robert when he found that he was engaged with his father, dutifully submitted to him though he was victorious.

WILLIAM invaded France, and taking Mantes in August 1087, he ordered it to be reduced to ashes; but approached so near the flames, that the heat of the fire, together with the warmth of the season, threw him into a fever, which being increased by a fall from his horse on his return to Roan, he died in a village near that city on the 9th of September following, in the 94th year of his age, after a reign of 52 years in Normandy, and 21 in England, and was buried at Caen.

WILLIAM was tall, broad set, and of great strength. His passions were violent. He had much wisdom, but more dissimulation; great wealth, but greater avarice; was fond of fame, but severe to his opponents in war.

In this reign Richard, the King's second son, was killed by a stag in the New Forest. There was a great fire in London, which consumed St. Paul's; and an earthquake which happened on a Christmas-day.

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II. WILLIAM the SECOND,
from 1087 to 1100.



WILLIAM the Second won but little fame;
He built that Hall which Westminster we name;
Was valiant, rash, intemperate and vain,
And was by Tyrrel in New Forest slain.

W I L L I A M II.

WILLIAM the second surviving son of William the Conqueror, who was from the colour of his hair surnamed Rufus or Red, succeeded his father in 1087. He was then thirty years of age; and at the same time his brother Robert succeeded to the duchy of Normandy. Robert resolved to assert his right of primogeniture to the crown of England, and several of the Norman nobility espoused his cause; but William put an end to the rebellion, by defeating a body of troops in Kent; and soon after, partly by force, partly by bribery, obliged his brother to conclude a peace. The two brothers then made war on their younger brother Henry, whom they besieged in mount St. Michael; where William, one morning riding out unattended fell in with a party of Henry's soldiers, and endeavoured to force his way thro' them, but was dismounted, and a soldier was going to dispatch him, when he cried out, *Hold, fellow, I am the King of England.* On this the man dropping his sword, raised the

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Monarch from the ground, and received from him the honour of knighthood, and other favours. The brothers were soon reconciled, and William turned his arms against Scotland, and defeated the army of their King Malcolm; that Prince and his son being just before killed in an ambush laid by Mowbray the Governor of Northumberland. Soon after, Robert de Mowbray, finding that the King had neglected to reward his services, joined with several other noblemen to set the crown on the head of Stephen, grandson to William the Conqueror: Upon which the King marched into Yorkshire, reduced Bamborough castle, took Mowbray prisoner, and put an end to the rebellion.

At length, as William was hunting in the New Forest, he was slain with an arrow shot by Walter Tyrrel, his particular favourite; who, aiming at a deer, struck the King full in the breast, and he immediately expired, on the 2d of August 1100, aged 44, after a reign of 13 years, and was conveyed to Winchester in a coalier's cart.

III. HENRY the First,
from 1100 to 1135.



Learn'd and polite, the Conqueror's youngest son,
By wisdom kept the crown his wiles had won.
Brave, handsome, sober, to his subjects kind,
Yet faithless, covetous and to lust inclin'd.

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H E N R Y I.

THIS Prince, the youngest son of William the Conqueror, was, on account of his great learning, surnamed Beauclerc. He was born at Selby in Yorkshire in 1070; and the English, looking upon him as their natural Prince, raised him to the throne in 1100, though his eldest brother Robert was living, but he was engaged in the Holy Land. Henry was at that time 30 years of age, and had before shewn himself a politic and brave Prince. He was no sooner seated on the throne, than he began to make amendments in the laws of the realm, and to abolish some abuses which had crept into the church. About this time, Robert returning from Jerusalem, Henry endeavoured to secure himself on the throne by marrying the Princess Matilda, daughter to Malcom King of Scotland, by Margaret the sister of Edgar Atheling.

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Duke Robert, however, being determined to revive his claim, landed at Portsmouth in 1102; but when both armies were ready to engage, a treaty was proposed to save the
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effusion of blood; and it was agreed, that Henry should retain his kingdom, relinquish to Robert the possession of Normandy, and pay him 3000 merks a year; and that if one of the brothers died without children, the other should succeed him in his dominions. Robert afterwards, being disturbed by a formidable insurrection, and having deprived himself of all Normandy, except the city of Roan, by mortgaging it to pay his debts, applied to his brother for assistance: on which Henry levied an army, passed into Normandy, seized several cities, and on his return to England, was followed by his brother as a suppliant to a conqueror for mercy; but Henry was deaf to all his entreaties, on which Robert returned, and obtained the assistance of France, and some of the neighbouring Princes; but Henry going with an army to Normandy, totally defeated the allies, took the Duke himself prisoner, seized upon his dominions, and confined him in Cardiff castle in Wales. Some time after, Henry's only son, William, and the Countess of Perche, his natural daughter in their passage by sea from Barfleur to England, were unfortunately drowned; which gave Henry such deep affliction, that accord

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ing to some historians, he was never after seen to laugh. His brother Robert, after a confinement of 27 years, and the most severe and cruel treatment, died in prison, and his death was soon followed by that of Henry, who fell ill by eating to excess of some lampreys at his castle of Lyon near Roan, which carried him off in seven days. He died on the 1st of December 1135, in the 68th year of his age, and the 36th of his reign; and was buried at Reading, in a monastery of his own founding. The Empress Maud was his only legitimate child then living, though he had twelve natural children.

HENRY was very learned, and had so great a regard for the sciences, that he built a palace at Oxford, whither he often retired. He had black hair, was of a midling stature, had a handsome person and engaging deportment; but these accomplishments were sullied by his cruelty, avarice and inordinate love of women.

In his reign, Winchester, Gloucester and Worcester were burnt. The Thames, Medway and Trent were almost dried up. In the 33d year of his reign, London was burnt from Westcheap to Aldgate.

IV. STEPHEN, from 1135 to 1154.



*Valiant and prudent, but of dubious right,
Which oft, with various chance, was try'd in fight
At length, his own son dead, this Prince agree
That Henry, son of Maud, should him succeed*

S T E P H E N.

THE Norman government which had subsisted sixty-nine years in England, was now extinct. The Empress Maud or Matilda succeeded her father in his duchy of Normandy; but though her right to the crown of England had been recognized in parliament, Stephen earl of Bologne the third son of the earl of Blois, by Adela, daughter to William the Conqueror, got possession of the throne, and was crowned on the 22d of December 1125. Stephen received the favourite laws of Edward the Confessor. In this reign, the insolence of the clergy obliged Stephen to seize the castles belonging to the bishops of Salisbury, Lincoln and Ely. The spirit of rebellion upon this occasion prevailed, and the Empress Maud seized the opportunity of asserting in person a right to the crown. The King besieged the Empress in Wallingford, pursued her to Lincoln, and gave battle to the earl of Gloucester before that city, when the King was taken prisoner: before which he had broke his battle-axe and sword, and was

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knocked down on his knees with a stone. He was then confined in irons in Bristol castle.

MAUD was now acknowledged Sovereign, but behaved with great haughtiness: King Stephen's consort humbly entreated her to set her husband at liberty, promising that he should resign his crown and end his days in a monastery; but she dismissed her with such contempt, that the late Queen recovering resolution, raised a large body of forces; and Maud refusing to mitigate the severity of the Norman laws, a revolt ensued, and the King was set at liberty. All the adherents to Maud were at length obliged to retire to Normandy: however the young Prince Henry her son, obtaining assistance from France, returned to England; but when both Princes were preparing for battle, a truce was agreed on, and it was stipulated that the King should enjoy the crown during life, and that after his decease, Henry should succeed to the throne. Stephen died on the 25th of October at Canterbury, in the 50th year of his age, and the 19th of his reign, and was buried in the abbey of Feversham in Kent.

In this reign there was a great fire in London, the city of York was burnt to the ground; Rochester was also burnt to the ground.

V. HENRY

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V. HENRY the SECOND,
from 1154 to 1189.



First of Plantagenets, now HENRY reigns,
Fam'd for his pow'r his lust and large domains;
A priest imperious vex'd him all his life,
His sons prov'd rebels, and a shrew his wife.

H E N R Y II.

HENRY PLANTAGENET, the son of the Empress Maud by Geoffrey earl of Anjou, was crowned in 1154, in the 23d year of his age. In 1159, Henry concluded a marriage between his eldest son and Margaret the daughter of the French King, though the young Prince was only five years of age, and the Princess but six months old. The old Duke of Britany also gave his daughter Constance in marriage to Geoffrey, another of Henry's sons, then in his cradle.

HENRY was disturbed at home by the arrogance of Thomas Becket, whom he had raised from a mean degree to the see of Canterbury, and the dignity of High Chancellor. The dispute ran so high, that the Archbishop was obliged to fly the kingdom. The affair, however, being at length determined, Becket returned to England, and raised such disturbances, that four knights, thinking to please the King, murdered him in his cathedral of Canterbury. This prelate was afterwards honoured with the title of a Martyr,

tyr, and canonized by the name of St. Thomas of Canterbury.

HENRY sailed with a numerous fleet to Ireland, and landing at Waterford on the 18th of October 1172, all the Irish Princes voluntarily swore allegiance to him; so that he became master of that kingdom without blood-shed, and divided great part of the country among the English nobles, &c. who attended him in the expedition; from whom sprung the principal families of Ireland. The same year, the Pope's legate prevailed on the King to do penance, by going barefoot three miles to Becket's shrine; and to be scourged by the Augustine Monks, who gave him fourscore lashes on his naked back.

HENRY met with great vexations in his own family: Eleanor his queen, being jealous of Rosamond, the Lord Clifford's daughter, who was the King's mistress, and whom he kept at Woodstock in a labyrinth built to secure her from the Queen's rage, found means to dispatch her by poison; and the young Princes, his sons, being joined by several of the nobility, and assisted by the kings of France and Scotland, raised a great rebellion. King Henry, however, took the King of Scotland prisoner, and became master of the

the principal places in Grienne, Anjou, Poitou and Britany, restored the young Princes to favour, and pardoned all the revolters; but obliged the King of Scotland to pay him homage for his kingdom.

HENRY was so mortified at the disobedience of his sons, that through grief he fell sick at Chinon in Touraine, and perceiving his end draw near, gave orders for his being carried into the church, where he expired before the altar, on the 6th of July 1189, in the 57th year of his age, and the 35th of his reign. He was stripped by his domestics, and left quite naked in the church but was afterwards buried at Fonteverand in Anjou.

HENRY was of a middle stature; his hair was bushy, he had a Roman nose, and his legs were somewhat deformed: he was valiant and learned, prudent and polite, generous, and of a mild disposition: among his vices, lust was his predominant passion.

In his reign, lions were first kept in the Tower of London. London bridge was rebuilt with timber. There was an earthquake by which the church of Lincoln and several others were destroyed.

VI. RICHARD the FIRST,
from 1189 to 1199.



RICHARD, for boist'rous courage chiefly known,
Wasted his years in countries not his own;
A pris'ner long, at last untimely slain:
England had small advantage from his reign.

R I C H A R D I.

RICHARD, the eldest son of Henry II. who was from his bravery surnamed Cœur de Lion, or Lion-hearted, was 32 years of age when his father died. He was crowned in Westminster Abbey on the 3d of September 1189. On the day of his coronation, the Jews of London flocking to make presents to him, the mob robbed and murdered all they met with, plundered, and set fire to their houses. At York 500 Jews, besides women and children, shut themselves up in the castle, and there died by their own hands rather than submit to their persecutors.

RICHARD had no sooner ascended the throne, than he went to the Holy War, in conjunction with Philip King of France. —Richard, being driven by contrary winds to the-isle of Cyprus, landed his troops there, and took Isaac, the King of that island, and his daughter prisoners; conquered the whole country, was made king, and afterwards transferred his right to that island to Guy Lusignan, titular King of Jerusalem, in exchange for that empty title. Hence the English Monarchs were for

for a long time stiled kings of Jerusalem.

RICHARD sailed from Cyprus to Palestine, where he joined the French King, &c. and was very instrumental in the reduction of the city of Acre; before which place above 200,000 Christians were killed. He afterwards seized Ascalon, Joppa and Cæsarea.

In the absence of Richard, which lasted four years, Prince John his brother usurped the sovereign authority; but the King soon suppressed his brother's party, levied a numerous army, and invaded France, and at the battle of Blois, Richard took all the archbishops of the French kingdom. After which he was preparing to return to England, when a gentleman of Limosin, having discovered a treasure upon his estate, the King claimed it as a sovereign of Guienne; the gentleman took shelter in the castle of Chaluz, which the King besieged; in reconnoitering the walls, he received a wound, of which he died on the 6th of April 1199, aged 42, after a reign of nine years and nine months. The castle being taken before the king died, he ordered all the garrison to be hanged; but pardoned the man who wounded him.

He appointed by will his brother John to succeed him in all his dominions.

VII. JOHN.

VII. JOHN, *from 1199 to 1216.*



JOHN's reign was full of troubles and turmoils
from his bad conduct, and from priestly wiles.
England's great Charter, by the Barons won,
He gave; but to the Pope resign'd his crown.

J O H N.

JOHN, surnamed Lackland, the brother of Richard, ascended the throne without much opposition in 1199; for though Arthur Duke of Britany, son of Geoffrey, the late King's brother, had the hereditary right, yet John was elected King, on condition that he should restore and establish the rights of the people. He was then 32 years of age, and having also seized the Duchy of Normandy, he left Arthur only the possession of some of the provinces enjoyed by the English in France.

JOHN had several contests with the Pope, who had excommunicated him, and absolved the people of England from their oath of allegiance, and now sent Pandulph his Nuncio into England, who offered him the Pope's protection, on condition of his taking an oath to obey the Pontiff in all things, and resign his crown into the hands of the Nuncio. To this John consented, repaired to Dover church, and in the presence of the people took off his crown, disrobed himself of all his ensigns of royalty, and laid them

at

at the feet of the Nuncio, who was seated on a throne. After which he signed a charter, whereby he resigned the kingdom of England and the lordship of Ireland to the Holy See, and bound himself as a vassal to pay 700 marks annually for England, and 300 for Ireland, and then did homage to the Pope in the person of his Nuncio, who kept the crown and sceptre five days in his possession.

The English Barons, fired with indignation at this meanness, had recourse to arms, and demanded a re-establishment of the laws of Edward the Confessor, and a renewal of the charter of Henry the First; which being refused by the King, they elected Robert Fitzwalter for their General, entered London, and besieged him in the Tower. The King complied, when he could no longer resist and agreed to meet the Barons in Runnemead, or the Mead of Council, between Stains and Windsor; and there being unable to obtain supplies from his people, and also too weak to withstand them, granted whatever they desired, and hence arose the famous charter of liberties called *Magna Charta*, which he was obliged to sign, and also the charter of the liberties of the forest.

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which have been since esteemed the foundation of the English liberties. The King, however, though he had ratified these charters with a solemn oath, brought over an army from Flanders, and ravaged the whole kingdom; upon this the barons applied for assistance from the king of France, promising the crown to his son Lewis, if he freed them from John's tyranny. Lewis soon came to their assistance, landed at Sandwich, and took Rochester, while John retired to Winchester, having prevailed on the Pope to excommunicate both the French King and the English Barons; but being deserted by some of his mercenaries, the Dauphin besieged Dover, while the Barons invested Windsor; after which the country was ravaged by both parties, who came to no engagement. At length grief and fatigue threw the King into a fever, which is said to have been heightened by his eating of peaches and drinking new ale. He died on the 18th of October 1216, in the 45th year of his age, and the 17th of his reign.

In this reign London Bridge, which was before of wood, was built entirely of stone.

VIII. HENRY the THIRD,
from 1216 to 1272.



This King chief note in History does gain
From civil discords, and the longest reign;
Fickle and weak, he saw his crown just go
Yet dying, left it to his warlike son.

H E N R Y III.

HENRY of Winchester was but twelve years of age, when the Earl of Pembroke had him crowned at Gloucester on the 28th of October 1216. The usual oath was administered, and the Legate caused him to do homage to the Holy See. Many of the Barons who had sworn allegiance to the Dauphin joined with Henry, and the Pope renewed his excommunication against Lewis; after this a truce was concluded and prolonged till Easter: soon after which, the French laid siege to Lincoln castle, but being unsuccessful in that and some other attempts, Lewis was obliged to come to a composition, and agreed to return home, and to restore the English dominions in France.

HENRY began his majority with exacting large sums, and annulling the two famous charters granted by his father. He landed in Britany with a numerous army, and then spending his time in diversions, shamefully returned, after he had spent all his treasure. He afterwards renewed the war

in which he lost all Poitou, and then concluded a truce with Lewis for five years, to purchase which Henry consented to pay him 5000l. annually.

The King met with many mortifications from his parliament and people, who at length obliged him to renew the two charters; which was done in Westminster-hall, in the following manner, viz. the Peers being assembled in the presence of the King, each holding a lighted taper, the Archbishop of Canterbury denounced a terrible curse against those who should violate the laws, or alter the constitution of the kingdom; then the charters were read aloud, and confirmed by the King, who all the time kept his hands upon his breast; after which, every one threw his taper on the ground to raise a great smoke, and wished, *That those who violated the Charters might smoke in Hell*. After which, the parliament granted him a subsidy for suppressing an insurrection in Guienne. He soon reduced that province and returned to England, where he renewed his exactions. Prince Richard, Henry's brother, being elected king of the Romans, took the immense sum of 700,000 l. in Germany to support his election; while the

King

King amassed 950,000 merks for an expedition to the Two Sicilies which were offered him by the Pope; tho' the crown belonged to Conradin, the Emperor Conrad's son. In short, the people were grievously oppressed, and the Barons, finding that Henry could not be bound by the most solemn oaths, undertook to reform the government; accordingly commissioners were chosen by the King and the Barons, and articles agreed on; which the King again broke. At last they came to an open war, when a decisive battle was fought near Lewes in Sussex, in which the King's army was defeated, and himself, Prince Edward, and the King of the Romans taken prisoners; but afterwards the Earls of Leicester and Gloucester, quarrelling, the latter joined Prince Edward, who had escaped from his keepers, and uniting their forces, marched against the Earl of Leicester, whom they defeated and slew. The king was set at liberty, but peace was not restored till some time after, when Prince Edward engaged in a crusade, Henry went to the Holy Land. Henry died at London, Nov. 20, 1272, aged 67, in the 31. year of his reign, and was buried in Westminster-Abbey.

IX. EDWARD I. from 1272 to 1307.



*Far distant, when acknowledg'd, Edward came
Assum'd the crown, and rul'd with matchless
fame.*

*Welch, Scots, he conquer'd, made and unmade
Reform'd the law, and clipt the clergy's wade*

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E D W A R D I.

EDWARD, surnamed Longshanks, was
 aged 33, when his father died, and was
 crowned on his return from Palestine, where
 with only 10,000 Englishmen, he struck a
 general panic into the Saracens. He nar-
 rowly escaped being murdered there by an
 assassin, from whom he received a wound in
 his arm, which was given by a poisoned dag-
 ger; and it is affirmed that he owed his life
 to the affection of Eleanor his wife, who
 was with him, and sucked the venom out of
 the wound. He arrived in England with his
 youthful Queen on the 25th of July, 1274,
 and they were both crowned at Westmin-
 ster; on the 19th of August following. He
 began his reign with a strict enquiry into
 the affairs of his kingdom, &c. and con-
 firmed the great charter.

He then set about rectifying the coin-
 age, which had been so much adulterated by the
 kings, and caused 280 of them to be put to
 death.

EDWARD, having defeated and killed Le-
 lylyn, a petty King of Wales, who had
 revolted

revolted, afterwards summoned a parliament at Ruthen, where it was resolved that Wales should be inseparably united to England.--- But some of the Welsh nobles telling the King that he would never peaceably enjoy their country, till they were governed by a Prince of their own nation, he sent for his Queen, who was then pregnant, to lie in at Caernarvon, where she was brought to bed of a prince, whom the states of Wales acknowledged for their Sovereign; and since that time the eldest sons of the Kings of England have borne the title of Prince of Wales. Edward banished 15,000 Jews for usury and adulterating the coin. Soon after this, Queen Eleanor died at Grantham in Lincolnshire: to whose memory the King erected a cross at every place where the corpse rested in the way to Westminster.

EDWARD carried his arms into Scotland where he took the three important places of Berwick, Dunbar and Edinburgh. John Balliol their King, who was supported by Edward, repaired to him in the most humble manner, renewed the oath of fealty, and put the whole kingdom in his power. While Edward was in Flanders, endeavouring to recover some dominions, he had lost in France

by treachery, William Wallace, the glory of Scotland, rose up in the defence of his country, and having suddenly dispossessed the English of all the strong places they held, was declared regent of the kingdom; on which Edward hastily returned from France, advanced into Scotland at the head of a powerful army, and defeated Wallace, who several years after, was betrayed into the hands of the English, and sent to London, where Edward treated him with unpardonable severity, and made this great hero suffer the death of a traitor. Edward thrice conquered Scotland, and at length vowed that he would destroy that kingdom from sea to sea, but was seized with a dysentery, and died in the little town of Burgh on the 7th of July 1307, in the 68th year of his age and the 35th of his reign, but his body was interred in Westminster-Abbey.

EDWARD was a head taller than the generality of men; his person was well made, strong and handsome; but his legs being rather too long, he was thence called Long-shanks. His regard for the laws was so great that he publicly imprisoned the Prince of Wales his son, for breaking into the park of the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry.

X. ED-

X. EDWARD the SECOND,
from 1307 to 1327.



*Of person comely, but of genius mean,
Oppos'd by faction and a faithless Queen;
For crimes of favourites harra's'd and dethron'd,
Oppress'd by murd'ers, poor Caernarvon groan'd.*

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E D W A R D II.

EDWARD of Caernarvon was twenty-three years of age when his father died. He recalled Pierce Gaveston, whom his father had banished, and by his will enjoined him not to associate with; and then married Isabella the Daughter of the French King, and they were both crowned at Westminster on the 24th of February 1308. His ridiculous fondness for Gaveston created innumerable disputes. At length the Barons had recourse to arms, and Gaveston was beheaded. Mean while the Scots gained three victories over the English, and made themselves masters of every place in Scotland.

King Edward now raised the two Spencers, father and son, to the summit of power; but they were banished by the parliament. The King levied an army, took some castles from the Barons, and recalled the Spencers. Edward afterwards invaded Scotland; but wanting provisions, returned without striking a blow; on which Bruce King of Scotland, pursued him to York, destroyed 20,000 of the English, and then contented to a peace.

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The two Spencers incurred the general hatred; and Queen Isabella fled to France with her son, whence the nobility sent for her, and she with a numerous army marched towards London, the King fled into the West; but she still pursuing him, he set sail for Ireland, but was driven back into Wales. Hugh Spencer the father, being taken, was, without a trial, hanged and quartered, and the King himself was sent prisoner to the Queen: and the young Spencer was hanged on a gallows fifty feet high.

The Queen now forgot every call of nature and duty, and was entirely governed by Mortimer, whom she took to her bed. King Edward was deposed, and the son proclaimed King: they having obliged the old King to resign in the 43d year of his age, and the 20th of his reign; after which he was treated with the greatest indignities, and at last cruelly murdered; for some assassins covered him with a feather-bed, and held him down, while others thrust a horn pipe up his body, through which they conveyed a red-hot iron, and burnt his bowels to prevent any external appearance of violence.

XI. EDWARD the THIRD,
from 1327 to 1377.



Triumphant Edward, the Black Prince's sire,
in peace and war, we honour and admire;
France conquer'd, Scots subdu'd, preserve his name
but his last days eclips'd his former fame.

E D W A R D III.

EDWARD of Windsor was crowned at the age of 14, on the 26th of January 1327. Though the parliament appointed a regency, the Queen and Roger Mortimer had the sole rule. By their influence the young King renounced all his pretensions to Scotland, and gave his sister in marriage to David Bruce, King of the Scots; but afterwards becoming sensible of his error, he caused the Queen his mother to be confined for life, and Mortimer Earl of March to be hanged at Tyburn. He then broke the treaty with Scotland, and invaded that kingdom, won four battles in a short time, and obliged King David to fly with his Queen into France, when he set up Edward Baliol in his room. Edward now laid claim to France for Charles, his mother's brother, dying Philip of Valois had possessed himself of the kingdom, alledging the Salique law; but Edward asserted that the Salique law, in excluding females from the succession, did not exclude their male issue, on which he grounded his title. His first campaign passed with

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bloodshed; but he took the title of King of France, and quartered his arms with the *Flower de luce*, adding the motto, *Dieu & mon droit*, or *God and my right*.

In his second attempt, he defeated the French fleet, destroyed or took 370 of their ships, and 30,000 men; then besieged Tour-nay, but being called home to oppose the Scots, concluded a truce for one year with King Philip. The next campaign, he wasted all the country up to the walls of Paris, and obtained the glorious battle of Cressy, which was won by the Prince of Wales, who was then only sixteen. The French were defeated, with incredible slaughter. The King of Bohemia also died in the field; when his standard, on which were in gold, three Ostriches feathers, with these words, *Ich dieu*, that is *I serve*, was brought to the Prince of Wales; who, in memory of that victory, bore the Ostrich feathers in his coronet with the same motto. In this battle the French lost eleven Princes, and 30,000 common soldiers, a greater number than the whole army of the conquerors, whose loss was very inconsiderable. When the victory was over, the King tenderly embracing the Prince, "My gallant son, he said, you
" have

“ have nobly acquitted yourself, and well
 “ are you worthy of the kingdom.” Six
 weeks after this, Edward’s Queen defeated
 the Scots, and took King David prisoner.
 ----These memorable battles were fought in
 1346. Edward then laid siege to Calais,
 which he was obliged to reduce by famine
 and then returned to England. He then
 sent over his son the Black Prince, who, af-
 ter taking several towns, totally routed the
 French army commanded by King John,
 who had succeeded Philip; and, in this glo-
 rious battle, which was fought near Poie-
 tiers, took the King, many nobles, and a
 multitude of private men prisoners, though
 the French army was six times as numerous
 as the English.

There were at this time two Kings pri-
 soners in England; the French King, who
 was lodged at the Savoy, which was then
 Palace; and the King of Scotland, who was
 confined at Odiham in Hampshire. They
 were both treated with great respect. The
 French King paid for his ransom 500,000
 and a considerable extent of country; and the
 King of the Scots was ransomed for 100,000
 marks. The French King afterwards re-
 turned to England, and kept his court at

the palace of the Savoy, where he died in 1363.

A tedious war was afterwards carried on against the Black Prince by Charles the French king, in which several battles were fought to the disadvantage of the English, who lost all they had so bravely conquered in France, except Calais, to which the death of the Black Prince greatly contributed.

At length Edward, after having settled the succession, was taken ill, and died at Richmond in Surry on the 21st of June 1377, in the 65th year of his age, and the 51st of his reign, and was buried in Westminster-abbey. Edward the Black-Prince has a monument in the cathedral of Canterbury.

This Prince instituted the Order of the Garter, which is said to have had its rise from the Countess of Salisbury's dropping her garter at a ball, which the King taking up, and observing her in a confusion, presented it to her, saying, *HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE*, *Evil to him who evil thinks*, when observing several of the Nobles smile, he added, *Many a man has laughed at the Garter, who will think it a very great honour to wear such a one.*

XII. RICHARD the SECOND,
from 1377 to 1398.



*Richard, from valiant sire and grandsire sprung
Prov'd weak, perverse and rash, for he was young
Yet brave, from rebels did defend his throne,
And when depos'd, lost not his life alone.*

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RICHARD II.

RICHARD of Bourdeaux, the son of Edward the Black Prince, was but seven years of age, when he was crowned at Westminster, on the 16th of July 1377. He was put under the tuition of his uncles, John Duke of Lancaster, and Edmund Earl of Cambridge. In this reign, a poll-tax was passed, at 12d. per head, on all above the age of 16. This being levied with severity, caused an insurrection in Kent and Essex; the head of which were Wat Tyler and Jack Straw. Tyler refusing to pay for his daughter, alledging she was under the age, specified in the act, the collector used her with great indecency, on which Tyler beat out his brains with a hammer; then making known the occasion of the murder, he was soon joined by above 100,000 men, who advanced to London, cut off the heads of all the Lords, Gentlemen and Lawyers, they set with, and plundered and destroyed man-houses, &c. The King himself was obliged to come to a conference with Wat Tyler in Smithfield; when William Walworth

Mayor of London, gave Tyler such a blow on the head with his sword, that he fell dead at his feet; soon after which they dispersed.

The King knighted Mr Walworth, and ordained, that the Mayor of London should ever after bear the title of Lord, and that the dagger should be added to the city arms which was before a plain cross.

The rebellion also extended into Norfolk and Suffolk, but it was soon suppressed; and the King sent an army into Kent and Sussex to punish the ringleaders, and Jack Straw with about 1500 of his followers, were hanged.

The King's fondness for his favourites Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, whom he created Duke of Ireland, and Michael de Pool, who was made Earl of Suffolk, raised such discontent, that the Barons twice had recourse to arms, and at length obliged the King to take refuge in the Tower, and afterwards forced him to resign the crown. Henry Duke of Hereford, the son of John of Gaunt, was then declared King. Richard was removed to Pontefract castle, where Sir Pierce de Exon, with eight ruffians, in hope of pleasing Henry, rushed in upon him

when Richard, resolving to die like a man, wrested a pole-ax from one of them, and laid four of them dead at his feet; but Exton mounting on a chair behind, gave him so violent a blow on the head with a club that he fell down senseless, and thus died in the 33d year of his age, after a reign of 22 years.

King Henry IV. ordered his body to be removed to Westminster-Abbey, and caused a monument to be erected to his memory, and to that of his Queen, in Edward the Confessor's chapel.

In the fourth year of his reign, a mortality almost depopulated the North of England: In his sixth year several churches were thrown down by an earthquake: In his twelfth year, there was a great plague and famine; and in this reign guns first came into use. It is also worthy of remark, that peaked, high-toed shoes, fastened to the knees with silver chains, were in fashion about the middle of this King's reign; and soon after side saddles were used, and long gowns worn, which were introduced by the Queen, a Bohemian Princess; for before that time, the English women rode a-stride like the men.

XIII. HENRY *the* FOURTH,
from 1399 to 1413.



*Lancastrian HENRY now the throne possess'd
A Prince of no mean politics confess'd;
But courts the priests their favour to engage
Hence Lollards felt dire persecution's rage.*

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H E N R Y IV.

HENRY IV. surnamed Bolingbroke, was raised to the throne as a reward for his past services, though Edmund Mortimer was presumptive heir to the crown, as being descended from the daughter of Lionel Duke of Clarence, the third son of King Edward III. while Henry, Duke of Lancaster, was the son of John of Gaunt, the younger brother of Lionel, and the fourth son of Edward III.

HENRY Duke of Lancaster was proclaimed King on the 30th of September 1399, the very day on which Richard was deposed.

The dukes of Albemarle, Surry and Exeter, the earls of Salisbury and Gloucester, the bishop of Carlisle, and Sir Thomas Blount, being Richard's friends, formed a conspiracy in the year 1400, in order to assassinate Henry, and restore Richard to the throne; but being discovered, and their whole scheme frustrated, they assembled an army of 40,000 men, and set up Maudlin, a priest, whose person resembled Richard's, to pretend that it was Richard himself: In this they also

failed; most of the leaders were taken and beheaded, and Maudlin was hanged at London, and this conspiracy hastened the death of the late King, who was soon after basely murdered at Pontefract.

HENRY used great severity towards the Lollards, or the followers of Wickliffe; and had William Sawtree, a clergyman, burnt in London as a heretic.

In 1402, Henry caused Roger Clarendon the natural son of Edward the black prince and several others to be put to death, for maintaining that Richard was alive. The same year he married Johanna of Navarre, widow of the duke of Britany.

About this time, the Scots invaded England under the Earl of Douglas; but were defeated at Halidon-hill by the Earl of Northumberland and his son Henry Hotspur, with the loss of about 10,000 men; and in this victory several Earls, and many other officers were made prisoners; but the King ordered Northumberland to deliver up the prisoners into his hands, the Earl was so exasperated, that he with Henry Piercy, surnamed Hotspur, his son, and other Lords agreed to crown Edmund Mortimer Earl of March, whom Glandour kept prisoner in

Wales

Wales. The rebel army encamped near Shrewsbury, headed by Henry Hotspur, the Earls of Worcester, and the Scotch Earl of Douglas; and the King marched directly thither, with 14,000 choice troops, headed by himself, the Prince of Wales, and the Scotch Earl of March; and on the 22d. of July, at a place afterwards called Battle-field, the King obtained so complete a victory, that about 10,000 of the rebels were killed, among whom was the brave Hotspur, who fell by the hands of the Prince of Wales.

In the year 1405 another conspiracy was raised, at the head of which was the Archbishop of York, the Earl of Northumberland, Thomas Mowbray Earl Marshal, and other Noblemen, who assembled a large body of troops at York, and published a Manifesto, declaring the King a traitor, and that they were resolved to place Mortimer the lawful heir on the throne. But this rebellion was soon suppressed by the good policy of Ralph Nevil, Earl of Westmoreland.

HENRY died in the Jerusalem chamber at Westminster, on the 20th of March 1413, in the 46th year of his age, and the 14th of his reign, and was interred in the cathedral at Canterbury.

XIV. HENRY the FIFTH,
from 1413 to 1422.



*All conqu'ring Henry's parts and prowess rare
The glorious fields of Agincourt declare:
A vicious Prince, a virtuous King became;
But priests indulg'd, kept England in a flame*

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H E N R Y V.

THIS Prince was the eldest son of Henry IV. and was born at Monmouth in 1388. In his youth he was led into wild courses; but in the midst of all his extravagancies, he gave a singular proof of his moderation in suffering himself to be led into prison, by order of the Lord Chief Justice, whom he struck in the execution of his office; and this circumstance gave the people the greatest hope that he would soon change his conduct, nor were they disappointed. He succeeded to the throne at 25 years of age, and was crowned at Westminster on the 6th of April 1413. The next year Commissioners were appointed for adjusting the disputes between the crowns of England and France; but Henry, seeing that nothing could be done by negotiation, resolved to have recourse to arms, when Henry Chicheley Archbishop of Canterbury, advised him to lay claim to the whole kingdom of France, as the heir and successor of Edward III. This war was approved by the Parliament. He therefore demanded the crown of France,

as

as his right, upon which, the Dauphin in contempt, sent him a present of a ton of tennis-balls, to let him know that he thought him fitter for play than for war; but Henry sent him word, that he would soon repay him with such balls as the strongest gates of Paris should not be rackets sufficient to rebound.

Accordingly, in 1415, Henry embarked his army, amounting to 50,000 men, about the beginning of August, on board 1500 transport ships; and landed at Havre-de-Grace in Normandy on the 21st of August, and immediately laid siege to Harfleur, which surrendered in five weeks. Soon after which, the French, having assembled an army six times superior to the King's, they challenged him to fight, and Henry accepted it, though the French army consisted of 150,000 men, and the English were reduced to 9000. The French therefore made rejoicings in their camp as if the English were already defeated, and even sent to Harry to know what he would give for his ransom, to which he replied, that a few hours would shew whose care it would be to make the provision. The English, though fatigued with their march, sick of a flux, and a

most starved for want of food, were inspir-
ed by the example of their brave King, and
resolved to conquer or die. In this situa-
tion Henry sent David Gam, a Welch cap-
tain to reconnoitre the enemy, who bravely
reported, *That there were enow to be killed,*
enow to be taken prisoners, and enow to run
away.

The King was encamped, October 25,
1415, on a plain near Agincourt, and hav-
ing drawn up his small army into two lines
(the first commanded by the Duke of York,
and the second by himself) he disposed his
few men to so much advantage, and be-
came famous with such extraordinary conduct and
courage, that by the blessing of divine pro-
vidence, whose assistance he publicly and so-
lemnly implored before the action, by offer-
ing up prayers and exhorting his troops to
place all their trust in GOD, he gained a
complete victory, after having been several
times knocked down, and in the most im-
minent danger of losing his life. The En-
glish killed upwards of 10,000 men, and
took more prisoners than they had men in
the army; but an alarm being given, that
the French had plundered the English camp,
and were returning to the fight, they were
ordered

ordered to kill all their prisoners; an order which their own self-preservation rendered necessary; but the English soldiers had too much humanity to execute it: upon which a band of ruffians were employed in this massacre.

HENRY publicly returned thanks to God and acknowledged that his success was owing to the favour of Heaven. The loss of the English was no more than 400 men.

In 1417, the King in order to carry on the war, mortgaged his crown for 100,000 marks, and part of his jewels for 10,000. He landed at Beville in Normandy, on the first of August, with 25,000 men reduced Caen, &c. and the next year all Normandy fell again to the English.

On the 25th of May 1420 a treaty was concluded at Troy between England and France; wherein it was agreed, that the crown of France should descend to the King of England and his heirs, and that Henry should marry Catharine, the king of France's daughter; which being performed, he returned to England with his Queen, who was crowned the year following at Westminster.

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HENRY the next year advanced into France with 30,000 men; but while he was marching towards the river Loire, he was seized with a pleuretic fever, and was carried to Vincennes, where he sent for his brother, the Duke of Bedford, &c. and recommended Bedford to take upon him the administration of affairs in France, and that the Duke of Gloucester might be Protector of England; and expired about two hours after, on the 31st of August, in the 35th year of his age, and the 10th of his reign. His body was carried to Calais, whence it was conveyed to England, and interred in Westminster-Abbey.

This King was brave, prudent, magnanimous and merciful; and tho' he died in the flower of his age, few Princes have left behind them such shining proofs of every royal virtue.

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This reign was filled with too many glorious actions to permit historians to record all the interesting circumstances. It is worthy of remark, however, that on Candlemas-day 15, seven Dolphins were seen playing in the river Thames, and four of them seen.

H E N R Y VI.

HENRY of Windsor was only nine months old when his father died. This young prince was proclaimed king of England and heir of France; and his uncles, John Duke of Bedford and Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, were resolved to maintain what his father had procured for him. As Charles VI. died at Paris on the 20th of October 1421, the face of affairs was soon changed in France. Henry was proclaimed King at Paris, and the Dauphin at Poitiers, and several battles were fought in which the English had generally the advantage. The Earl of Salisbury had invested Orleans, and when it was near being surrendered, a country girl, named Joan of Arc, who had been bred to the keeping of sheep, undertook to deliver France from the English. She bore the arms and habit of a man, aided the French, and by her frequent and successful sallies, obliged the English to raise siege; then pursued and harassed them, took several places, attacked and defeated the brave Lord Talbot, and took him prisoner.

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soner. At length, after a number of astonishing exploits, this great heroine was taken at Compeigne, and burnt for a witch by the Duke of Bedford's order.

At twelve years of age, king Henry was carried to France, and crowned at Paris, but still the war continued. The Duke of Burgundy, who had been in the English interest, joined with Charles, and Paris shook off its allegiance to Henry. The Duke of Bedford died about this time; so that a truce was concluded, when King Henry's marriage with Margaret of Anjou, the daughter to the titular king of Sicily, contributed to complete his misfortunes.

The Queen determined to ruin the Duke of Gloucester, who was presumptive heir to the crown. He was seized, and being closely confined, was the next day found dead in his bed, smothered by the Queen's order. Gloucester's death occasioned the Duke of York to lay claim to the crown.

This Prince was descended from Lionel Duke of Clarence, third son to King Edward III. and King Henry was descended from John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster, the fourth son of the same Monarch; so that the right of primogeniture was plainly on the Duke's side.

This reign was full of domestic broils. The Duke of York's interest gained ground and his arms were at first successful against the King, over whom he gained a complete victory at St. Alban's, took the King prisoner, and conducted him to London; and calling a parliament in Henry's name, was declared Protector of the kingdom.

The Queen raised an army in the North, and the Duke of York advanced to meet her; but his army being inconsiderable, he was defeated and slain at Wakefield, and his youngest son the Earl Rutland, not above twelve years old, was cruelly killed by Lord Clifford; and the Earl of Salisbury was beheaded.

Richard Plantagenet Duke of York, being thus dead, Edward Earl of March, his eldest son took the title, and asserted his claim to the crown with an army of 23,000 men, and being victorious in several engagements, marched directly to London, obliging the Queen to return into the North, and Edward was unanimously acknowledged King.

Thus ended the reign of Henry VI. which lasted 38 years and an half.

XVI. EDWARD the FOURTH,
from 1461 to 1483.



Not unmolested, Yorkshire EDWARD reign'd
Yet, when victorious, he the throne maintain'd
Revengeful, jealous, politic, but lewd :
His virtues were but luxury subdu'd.

E D W A R D IV.

EDWARD came to the throne in the year 1461, and the 20th of his age; so soon as he was proclaimed King, he pursued the Queen into the North, and both armies meeting, a bloody battle was fought, in which 30,000 men were slain, and the King and queen defeated; on which King Henry and Margaret fled with the young Prince to Edinburgh; but Henry returning to England soon after in disguise, was seized and conducted on a wretched horse, with his legs tied to the stirrups, to the Tower.

The Earl of Warwick had been the chief instrument in raising Edward to the throne, at that Prince employing him to negotiate marriage for him in France, and in the mean time marrying Elizabeth the widow of Sir John Grey, the Earl was so exasperated that he raised a rebellion, in which he defeated the King's forces, and afterwards took his Majesty prisoner, and confined him in Middleham castle, from whence he escaped, and joining the Lord Hastings

in Lancashire, returned to London; where another battle ensued, and Warwick's army being defeated he was obliged to fly into France: The Earl of Warwick landed soon after at Dartmouth with a few troops which he soon increased to 60,000 men, upon which Edward also raised a numerous army at Nottingham, but as his enemies were advancing, the cry of King Henry was raised in his camp, on which Edward fled into Flanders. Warwick then took Henry out of the Tower, and he was again acknowledged the lawful King of England. But Edward afterwards returning to London, he was received with acclamations of joy, and Henry was again committed to the Tower.

Another battle was fought at Barnet, between King Edward and the Earl of Warwick, in which the great Earl of Warwick was slain and 17,000 men. Some days after, the remainder of the Earl's army was assembled by the Lancastrians, and being joined by other forces, was headed by the Queen, when Edward defeated her at Tewkesbury, and took her prisoner, with her son Prince Edward, the Duke of Somerset, &c. The Prince being carried to Edward's camp

as asked, why he was so rash as to enter the
 kingdom in arms, to which boldly replying,
 that he came to recover his right, unjustly un-
 derpied, Edward struck him with his gauntlet
 in the mouth, when the Dukes of Gloucester
 and Clarence, the Earl of Dorset and the
 Lord Hastings, stabbed him with their dag-
 gers, and thus massacred an amiable Prince
 in the 18th year of his age. And soon after
 King Henry was murdered in the Tower by
 the Duke of Gloucester, or, as others say,
 with grief in the 50th year of his age.
 Queen Margaret, after being four years
 confined in the Tower, was ransomed by her
 father for 50,000 crowns. Edward caused
 his brother, the Duke of Clarence, to be
 drowned in a butt of sack. At length King
 Edward was seized with a fever, or, accord-
 ing to others, with an apoplexy, and died
 at Westminster on the 9th of April 1483, in
 the 42d year of his age, and the 23d of his
 reign. King Edward had a curious monu-
 ment in the new chapel in Windsor, found-
 ed by himself. Jane Shore, whom Edward
 had taken from her husband, was his favour-
 ite mistress, for which she was persecuted in
 the reign of Richard III. and did public
 penance in St. Paul's church.

XVII. EDWARD the FIFTH,
Two Months and Twelve Days of 1483.



*Poor child! how short his reign! domestic strife
Untimely clos'd his own and brother's life;
He saw each faithful friend by fraud expire,
By RICHARD's fraud, who did to rule aspire*

E D W A R D V.

THE young Prince was at Ludlow when his father died, but, being sent for to London, was trepanned by his uncle the Duke of Gloucester, and lodged in the Bishop of London's palace, where on the 4th of May 1482, he received the oaths of the principal nobility, and Gloucester was made Protector of the King and Kingdom; he obliged the Queen to deliver up to him the Duke of York also, and then sent them both to the Tower, under a pretence of preparing for the coronation; the Tower at that time being royal palace, from which the procession at coronations was usually made at Westminster. Mean while the Duke of Gloucester, by the assistance of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, Sir John Shaw Lord Mayor of London, and Dr. Shaw his brother, had two nephews, and even the late King, declared illegitimate, and himself acknowledged King of England, pretending at the same time to accept the crown with reluctance: though, to produce this revolution, he had put to death the Lord Hastings, who was

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was strongly attached to the young King.

As Lord Hastings was greatly beloved by the people, Gloucester pretended, that the ambition of Hastings had endangered the safety of the kingdom; tho' in fact he was arrested only on a trump'd-up charge of forcery. The Queen and Jane Shore were accused as his colleagues, and Shore was taken into custody, but was soon after released on doing penance.

Richard's first care was to dispatch the young Prince; and Sir Robert Brackenbury Lieutenant of the Tower, refusing to comply with his cruel designs, he for one night only, gave the command of the Tower to Sir James Tyrell, and he procured two villains, who in the dead time of night entered the chamber where the Princes lay, and smothered them in bed. After which, they were buried under the stair-case, where their bones were discovered 191 years afterwards, and by order of King Charles II. deposited in Westminster-Abbey, and a small monument erected to their memory in Henry the VII's chapel.

The tyrant Richard, his tool Buckingham, and the other murderers, were soon after overtaken by the arm of the Almighty.

XVIII. RICH-

VIII. RICHARD the THIRD,
from 1483 to 1485.



King- RICHARD, with deep hypocrisy endu'd,
soon ambitious, cruel, destitute of good;
mighty and public praise obtain by wholesome laws,
RICH- and bravely fell, had virtue been the cause.

R I C H A R D III.

RICHARD the brother of King Edward IV. and the uncle and murderer of King Edward V. was proclaimed King on the 20th June 1483, but was not crowned till the 6th of July. He was now in the 32d year of his age, and as he had waded to the throne through injustice and violence, he endeavoured to gain the favour of the nation by popular laws. However tho' he had promised the Duchy of Hereford to the Duke of Buckingham, his chief instrument, he refused to perform that promise. At this Buckingham, being exasperated, left the court, and entered into a confederacy with Henry Earl of Richmond the next heir to the crown of the Lancaster race, who was still in Britany, where his mother informed him of what had happened in England, and desired he would speedily land in Wales. Mean while, the King suspected a conspiracy, and sent for Buckingham to court, who refused to obey the summons, immediately collected his forces in Wales, and began to march towards the

western

western counties; but the Severn rising with great inundation, he was unable to pass that river, and his army dispersed, and left him only with a single servant. In this melancholy situation he retired into Shropshire, and sheltered himself in the house of Ralph Bannister, who had been his servant, and had received many favours from him, but the King offering 1000*l.* reward for the taking of him, Bannister villainously betrayed his master, who was beheaded at Shrewsbury without any legal process.

The Earl of Richmond at length sailed for England with 40 ships and 5000 men, but his fleet being dispersed in a storm, he was obliged to return. Upon this Richard cruelly sacrificed all whom he suspected to favour the Earl, concluded an alliance with the Scots, and even corrupted the Duke of Brimingham's treasurer to destroy Richmond, but he saved himself by escaping into France.

As Henry had solemnly engaged to marry Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Edward IV. Richard poisoned his own wife, and then endeavoured without effect to prevail on the young Princess his niece to accept him for her husband. Mean while Henry landed at Milford-Haven with only 2000 men,

men, immediately began his march towards Shrewsbury, and was joined by many of the nobility with all the forces they could raise. At length both armies met at Bosworth, the King having 13,000 men, and the Earl only 5000. The engagement was hot and doubtful, till the Lord Stanly, and his brother joined the Earl with fresh troops when Richmond soon obtained the victory in which King Richard soon lost his life, and the crown being found in the field of battle, was placed on Henry's head. Richard's body was after the battle, found entirely naked, covered with blood and dirt and being thrown across a horse was conveyed to Leicester, and interred without the least ceremony.

Thus fell Richard on the 22d of August 1485, in the 34th year of his age, and the third of his reign. He was from his deformity surnamed Crook back'd, and one of his arms was almost withered. He had a solid judgment, and was naturally brave.

RICHARD left only a natural son, who perceiving his father's fate, went to London, and put himself apprentice to a bricklayer, which business he occupied to his death.

XIX. HENRY

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XIX. HENRY VII. from 1485 to 1502.



the first of Tudor's race of high renown,
pite of pretenders held the English crown:
while, profound, his projects tended still,
EN fix his empire, and his coffers fill.

H E N R Y VII.

HENRY, having defeated King Richard, was crowned at Westminster on the 30th of October 1485, and the next year married the lady Elizabeth the eldest daughter of King Edward IV. by which means the two houses of York and Lancaster became united. However, the house of York procured one Lambert Simnel, a young student of Oxford to pretend that he was the son of the Duke of Clarence, brother to King Edward IV but after being crowned King in several places he was defeated and taken prisoner; yet the King spared his life, made him turnspit in his kitchen, and afterwards his falconer.

Soon after, Margaret Duchess of Burgundy, a Princess of the house of York, introduced another Pretender named Perkin Warbeck: he personated Richard Duke of York, Edward V's brother, who was smothered with that Prince in the Tower. This adventurer attempted to land in Kent with a few followers; but several of his adherents being executed, he fled to Ireland

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and from thence to Scotland, where he married the Earl of Huntly's daughter, and was twice sent with an army into England by the King of Scotland; but, being both times defeated, was obliged to retire into Cornwall, where he raised an army, with which he laid siege to Exeter; but the King's forces advancing, he fled again; when his wife being taken, a pension was assigned her on account of her family and beauty. Perkin some time after surrendered himself and was committed to the Tower, whence he made his escape; but was again taken, and endeavouring to corrupt his keepers, was at length hanged. Henry also, for his own security, caused the Earl of Warwick, the Duke of Clarence's son, whom Simnel had personated, and who had been confined in the Tower from his infancy, to be beheaded.

King Henry married his eldest son Arthur to Catharine, the daughter of Ferdinand, King of Spain, and his daughter Margaret, to James King of Scotland; when England being blessed with tranquility, he was continually making use of new means to heap riches for which he had no use: for this purpose he employed Sir Richard Empson and Edmund Dudley, two lawyers, who cau-

sed many wealthy persons to be indicted for several crimes, and then obliged them to compound with the King; by which and other illegal and shameful oppressions, the King amassed 1,800,000l. sterling, which was more than double the value in our present money.

At length Henry grew so absolute that no man durst oppose him. But a little before his death, he ordered by his will, that his heirs should restore what his officers and ministers had unjustly taken from his subjects. He died at Richmond in Surry on the 22d of April 1509, in the 53 year of his age and the 24th of his reign, and was interred in his own new chapel at Westminster. Both the chapel and his monument are exquisite pieces of Workmanship.

HENRY exceeded the common stature was strait-limbed, but slender, and had handsome person. In the year 1487, he instituted the Star-chamber, under the pretence that channels of justice were corrupted. He promoted commerce, and sent Sebastian Cabot to make new discoveries in America. In his 15th year was a great plague, of which 30,000 died in London.

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XX. HENRY VIII. *from 1509 to 1547.*



HENRY, of haughty mind, and sturdymien,
With fury reign'd and often chang'd his Queen;
Down'd the Pope, yet kept us Papists still,
And burn'd both sides, who dar'd contest his will.

H E N R Y V I I I.

HENRY VIII. was born at Greenwich on the 28th of June 1491, and succeeded his Father Henry VII. on the 22d of April 1509, in the 18th year of his age. He redressed the grievances of the former reign, put Empson and Dudley to death, and wrote a book against Luther; on which the Pope conferred on him and his successors the title of Defender of the Faith. Soon after his accession, he passed over into France, and took Terouane, Tournay, and some other places. In the mean time, King James of Scotland invaded England, but was defeated at the famous battle of Flodden field, where King James, many nobles, and 9000 common soldiers were slain.

In this reign Thomas Wolsey, the son of a butcher at Ipswich, from being a common Priest was at length raised to the See of York, the dignity of a Cardinal, and the post of Lord High Chancellor of England. His pride, increased with his riches, and caused the Duke of Buckingham to be beheaded for saying, *That if the King*

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without heirs, he thought he had a right to the throne; but the real cause was his affronting the Cardinal by pouring water into his shoes, when he had the impudence to dip his hands in the bason while the Duke held it to the King to wash. Cardinal Wolsey afterwards lost the favour of the King, and was arrested for high treason; this threw him into a fit of illness of which he died. King Henry having conceived a passion for Anna Bullen, caused his Queen Catharine to be divorced, under pretence of her having been first married to his brother Arthur; and married Anna Bullen, Nov. 14, 1532, and he was crowned the first of July following. By the former he had Mary, and by the latter Elizabeth. The Pope now threatened to excommunicate Henry, both he and the parliament were so exasperated, that in 1534, they passed an act, abolishing the papal authority in England. The Parliament now acknowledged the King supreme head of the church; for refusing to acknowledge which, Bishop Fisher, Sir Thomas Moore, and others, lost their heads.

HENRY was then excommunicated, and his subjects absolved from their allegiance; upon which the King suppressed their monasteries,

nasteries, and seized their revenues, &c.

Queen Anna Bullen lived with the King only till she had born the Princess Elizabeth. Soon after which, she was cruelly beheaded, with some of her relations and domestics, on a charge of incontinency; of which there is the greatest reason to believe her innocent. Henry then married Jane Seymour, who died in child-bed of Prince Edward; when it being impossible to save both, he was asked which should be spared, the mother or the child; he replied, *That he could easily procure another wife, but was not sure that he should have another son.* He next married Anne of Cleves, whom he soon divorced, and then beheaded; as he did Thomas Lord Cromwell for promoting that match. His fifth wife Catharine Howard was like Anna Bullen, beheaded for adultery; and Deerham, Mannock and Culpepper, confessing that they had often lain with her, were all three beheaded. But Catharine Parr, his last wife survived him.

HENRY died in the night between the 28th and 29th of January 1547 in the 57th year of his age, and 38th of his reign, and was interred at Windsor.

XXI. EDWARD the SIXTH
from 1547 to 1553.



Edward was learn'd, meek, pious, just and sage;
A man in council though a child in age;
He laid the basis of the church we boast,
But by his uncle's quarrels oft was crost.

E D W A R D VI.

EDWARD the only son of King Henry VIII. and Jane Seymour, ascended the throne at nine years of age, when he was well-skilled in the Latin and French tongue, and had acquired some knowledge of the Greek, Italian and Spanish, and was committed to the care of sixteen persons, whom Henry had nominated Regents of the kingdom and governors of his son; the chief of whom was the Earl of Hertford, the King's uncle by the mother's side, who was soon after made Duke of Somerset, and was Protector to the young King.

HENRY left the reformation very imperfect, but the Protector and his friends, assisted by Archbishop Cranmer, &c. made use of this opportunity to improve it.

The young Queen of Scotland was now demanded in marriage for King Edward; but the same proposal being made by France in behalf of the Dauphin, she was sent into that kingdom; on which the Duke of Somerset invaded Scotland, routed the Scotch

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army amounted only to 18,000 men, and the Scots to 30,000, the Scots were defeated with the loss of 14,000 killed, and 1500 prisoners; and, what is surprizing, the English are said to have lost only 51 horse-men and one foot-soldier.

Private masses were now laid aside: prayers were read in English, &c. However, Joan Bocker, embracing the opinions of the German Baptists, was burnt as an heretic; but the young King set his hand to the warrant with tears in his eyes, telling Archbishop Cranmer, *That if he did wrong, since it was a submission to his authority, he should answer to God for it*

These alterations, however, occasioned great disturbances in different parts of the kingdom, which were at length suppressed, some by force of arms, and others by proclamation for a general pardon.

The Duke of Somerset's great power raised him many enemies, the chief of whom was his brother Thomas Lord Seymour; but articles of accusation being exhibited against him, he was attainted in Parliament, and without an open trial condemned and beheaded. The Duke of Somerset was some time after impeached, and charged with a design

design to seize the King and to imprison the Earl of Warwick, which was both felony and treason, and though he was acquitted of treason he was condemned for felony, and the young king being with great difficulty prevailed on to sign the sentence, he was executed some time after. The Earl of Warwick, now Duke of Northumberland succeeded to the Earl of Somerset's power and at length (on the King's being taken ill of the measles) married the Lord Guildford Dudley, his fourth son, to the Lady Jane Grey, eldest daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, and persuaded Edward to settle the crown on her, his sisters Mary and Elizabeth having been both declared illegitimate during the life-time of their father; and the Prince hoping to save the reformation from impending destruction, appointed her his successor, and soon after died, on the 6th July 1553, in the 16th year of his age at the 7th of his reign. He was interred in Westminster-Abbey, but his monument was afterwards destroyed in the civil wars.

Edward's person was very beautiful; he had great sweetness of temper, and was remarkable for piety and humanity.

XXII. MARY the FIRST,
from 1553 to 1558.



When bloody MARY fill'd the English throne,
The good her brother did was soon undone.
For her short reign tho' much too long was seen
A R. wretched bigot, and a cruel Queen.

M A R Y.

THE Duke of Northumberland kept the death of the young King for some time concealed; and when the Lady Jane who was distinguished by her beauty, virtue and great learning, was informed of the settlement which her cousin Edward had made of the crown, she was with difficulty prevailed on to receive the offered ensign of royalty, and was proclaimed at London with the usual formalities. In the meantime the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk declared for Mary, and furnished her with troops, on her promising to leave religion in the same state she found it. The Duke of Northumberland marched from London at the head of a small army to oppose them; but being deserted by his troops, he endeavoured to save himself, by declaring for Mary; and in Cambridge market-place he proclaimed her Queen. The Duke of Suffolk was now ordered by the Council to deliver up the Tower, and the Lady Jane Grey quit the title of Queen, and resign her pretensions.

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MARY was determined to sacrifice to her safety or vengeance those whom she considered as her principal enemies. The Duke of Northumberland, with several other persons of distinction, were tried for high treason and executed.

Queen Mary was crowned on the first of October 1553. She soon after married Philip II. King of Spain and openly declared for Popery. An insurrection in Kent was raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt, who was beheaded; and the Duke of Suffolk, endeavouring to raise forces in Warwickshire, not only that Duke but his daughter the Lady Jane Grey, and the Lord Guilford Dudley his son-in-law, were beheaded.

Persecution for religion was now carried to a most terrible height: Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer and Ferrar, with some hundreds of other persons of different ranks and both sexes, were cruelly burnt alive. The Princess Elizabeth was closely watched, and obliged to dissemble her religious sentiments: and her answer to Gardiner who put at the dangerous question concerning these words of Christ, *This is my body*, was full of caution, and a proof of her wit and good sense.

Christ

*Christ was the Word that spake it;
He took the Bread and brake it;
And what the Word did make it,
That I believe and take it.*

The people of England were greatly disgusted at the behaviour of Philip, who soon after his arrival declared war against France and obtained a supply of 8000 English, by whose assistance the French were defeated at the battle of St. Quintin, but they soon after took Calais, which was the only strong place the English had left in France. Philip had before been greatly disgusted with the Queen, for falsely imagining herself with child: and this, added to the loss of Calais, threw her into an ill state of health; and while the people saw nothing but cruelty in the Council, poverty in the Exchequer, pride in the Court, dissention at home, and contempt abroad. Mary who had been long afflicted with the dropsy, died at St. James on the 17th of November 1558, in the 43 year of her age, after a reign of five years, four months, and eleven days; and was interred with great pomp in King Henry the VIIIth's chapel at Westminster.

XXIII. ELIZA



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XXIII. ELIZABETH.
from 1558 to 1603.



the fam'd ELIZA's long and glorious reign,
well'd Romish superstition, humbled Spain;
passions, plots, her genius soar'd above;
and in her servants' and her subjects' love.

E L I Z A B E T H

ELIZABETH was proclaimed Queen the same day her sister died. The House of Commons addressing the Queen marry, she excused herself by saying, *That by the ceremony of her inauguration she was married to her people.*

The Dauphin having married Mary Queen of Scotland, they, in the beginning of Elizabeth's reign, assumed the title of King and Queen of Scotland, England and Ireland. But Mary becoming a widow, by the death of Francis II. King of France and Scotland, she quitted the title of Queen of England, and returned to her own kingdom. She then married her cousin Henry Stewart Lord Darnley; but being accused of many familiarities with Rizzio, her husband came jealous, on which the Earl of Moray and some others murdered Rizzio. Queen Mary now bestowed all her favours on the Earl of Bothwell, who murdered the King soon after her delivery of a Prince, who afterwards James I. King of England, a few months after the murder, that

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married the Queen. Mary being now in danger of her life from the measures taken to destroy her, fled to England, where she was imprisoned by Queen Elizabeth. The new-born Prince was immediately set on the throne of Scotland; and Mary, after eighteen years confinement, was beheaded for a conspiracy carried on in her favour.

Queen Elizabeth assisted to the utmost of her power the Protestants both of France and Holland. Philip II. King of Spain,asperated at the assistance Elizabeth his sister-in-law had given the Dutch, though had before sought her in marriage, now formed the design of dethroning her, and prepared a prodigious fleet, which was called the Invincible Armada; but that fleet being entered the Channel, was bravely and successfully attacked by Elizabeth's Admirals, on the 21st of July 1588; when after a bloody engagement, the English admirals convinced the seamen, that the dreadful apprehensions they had entertained the large Spanish ships were groundless. The action was renewed on the 23d, when a sharp engagement ensued off Portland. A running fight was continued the next day; and on the 25th another terrible re-

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encounter happened off the isle of Wight. The Spaniards then bore down to the coast of Flanders, and were still pursued by the English; who in the night of the 28th sent eight fire-ships among the Spanish fleet, which had anchored off Calais. The Spaniards then cut their cables and put to sea, and were pursued by the English, who took some of the ships, and drove the rest on the coast of Zealand; but the wind chopping about, they escaped, and returned home by sailing round Scotland and Ireland; which attempt, several of their ships were taken by the English, and many of the rest were wrecked by tempests on the coast of Ireland. Thus Providence seconding the endeavours of our fleet, very few of the Armada, were able to get back into the ports of Spain. Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake, Captain Hawkins and Captain Forbisher, were the chief commanders.

The Spaniards lost 32 capital ships, according to some accounts 81 vessels large and small, with 13,500 men. Queen Elizabeth, in the medal she struck on this astonishing victory, piously ascribed the glory all to God.

She the next year sent a fleet of 100 sail under the command of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Norris, who plundered the Groyne : and, being joined by the Earl of Essex, took Peniche, seized 60 ships in the Tagus, and destroyed Vigo.

The Spaniards in 1596 were preparing to invade England again with a numerous fleet : upon which the Queen fitted out a fleet of 150 sail, with 22 Dutch ships, under Howard, Essex, Raleigh and Vere ; when the Spanish fleet which lay at Cadiz was defeated by Raleigh, who took four ships, and the rest, which consisted of 13 men of war, 11 ships freighted for the Indies, and 33 others, were burnt by the Spanish Admiral himself, after his having offered in vain to ransom them for two millions of ducats. The stores prepared against England were seized, the city plundered and burnt to the ground, and the loss of the Spaniards was estimated at 20 millions of ducats. The English then burnt several villages along the coast, and returned to England with a prodigious booty.

The Earl of Essex, who was the Queen's favourite, was sent as Deputy-Lieutenant of Ireland, with 20,000 men, to quell a re-

bellion raised there by the Earl of Tyrone, who assumed the title of King. Essex, finding he had enemies near the Queen, solicited in vain to return to England; he then grew inactive, and the rebels gained ground. At length concluding a truce with Tyrone he returned to England; but was soon afterwards suspended from all his employments, and afterwards attempting a change in the ministry, he was beheaded. Tyrone was at length defeated by Lord Mountjoy, and implored the Queen's mercy.

ELIZABETH died on the 24th of March 1603, in the 70th year of her age, and the 45th of her reign. She was interred in Henry the VII's chapel.

Her stature was somewhat tall, and her limbs strong. Her hair inclining to red and her complexion fair. Her voice was loud and shrill, yet she sung gracefully, and played well upon several instruments. She understood the Greek, Latin, French, Spanish, and Dutch languages: spoke all but the last with great fluency, and encouraged them at her court.



XXIV. JAMES I. *from 1603 to 1625.*



England's first Stuart, from the Scotian clime,
earn'd, but pedantic ; peaceful to a crime ;
is weak, yet arbitrary acts, prepare
scene of ills for his succeeding heir.

J A M E S I.

ON the death of Queen Elizabeth, James VI. of Scotland was the next heir to the crown, he being descended from the eldest daughter of King Henry VII. and in him the crowns of England and Scotland were united. King James and his Queen were crowned at Westminster, on the 25th of July 1603.

In 1605 the Gunpowder Plot, to destroy both the King and Parliament, was discovered by an anonymous letter, directed to Lord Monteagle. In a cellar under the Parliament-house, there were found 36 barrels of gunpowder, upon which were laid bags of iron, massy stones, &c. near to which was Guy Faux, one of the traitors, concealed with a dark lanthorn, and three mates, who instantly confessed himself guilty, and he together with Sir Everard Digby, Catesby, and several others were executed. The Duke of Frederick Elector Palatine, married once as King's daughter Elizabeth, from whose marriage the present Royal Family descended; the Princess Sophia, King George's

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First's mother, being the immediate issue of it. A little before this marriage, Prince Henry, the King's eldest son, and Prince of Wales, died in the 18th year of his age. It was generally believed he was poisoned by Rochester the royal favourite.

The great Sir Walter Raleigh, the glory of his country, had been thrown into prison for being one of the principals in a ridiculous plot, pretended to have been form'd in favour of King James's cousin-german, the Lady Arabella Stuart, before James's coronation, of which he was unjustly found guilty, without legal proof, and had been fourteen years confined in the Tower; when he was discharged, and sent on an expedition in quest of a gold mine, on the coast of Guiana; but returning without effecting the discovery, to please the Count of Gondomar, the Spanish Ambassador, he was shamefully re-committed to the Tower, and cruelly beheaded on his former sentence.

The Dutch, who owed their very existence as a free people to England, now despised James's power, and massacred the English at Amboyna; where they put the story to death, and seized their effects.

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King James's son, Charles, Prince of Wales, was married to the daughter of the French King Henry IV. and as she was Papist, she established that religion in the family of the Stuarts. King James died on the 27th of March 1625, in the 59th year of his age, and the 22d of his reign over England, and was buried in Henry the VIIth's chapel, in Westminster-Abbey.

King James was homely in person. He was, however, called the Solomon of his age, though he made the great duties of the King subservient to the idle distinctions of the pedant. His ignorance of the English constitution, induced him to strain the royal prerogative. He had, however, some virtues blended with his many vices, and he promoted the commerce of the kingdom.

In 1606, Virginia, which had been discovered by the unhappy Sir Walter Raleigh in Queen Elizabeth's reign, was now planted with an English colony; soon after which New-England, and the Bermuda island were made English plantations.

XXV. CHARLES the FIRST.
from 1625 to 1649.



happy Prince, his fate atones his fault,
at weak, but obstinate, and badly taught :
constitution hurt by lawless deeds,
quite suspended when the Monarch bleeds.

C H A R L E S I.

KING Charles was born at Dumfermline in Scotland on the 19th of November 1600, and succeeded his father James I. in the 25th year of his age, but was not crowned till the 2d of February 1626. He was tinctured from his infancy with his father's principles, relating to the royal prerogative.

King Charles soon after his marriage entered into a war with Spain, and sent a fleet against Cadiz, which proved unsuccessful. However, resolving to carry on the war, and the exchequer being exhausted, he called a parliament, when supplies not being granted, he had recourse to raising money without a parliament.

He then declared war against France, which meeting with no success, a peace was concluded between England, France and Spain. After this the King called another parliament, and endeavoured to have the duty of tonnage and poundage (granted only for certain purposes) put intirely in his hands: but the parliament not complying, he dissolved them. The revenues

the crown being now insufficient for its support, the Ministers proceeded to the following rigorous method of raising money, viz. They exacted the duty of tonnage and poundage; granted very numerous monopolies, extending even to old rags; a general loan was proposed, and the people had soldiers billeted on them to compel payment, and several gentlemen were imprisoned for not subscribing; and a tax was imposed under pretence of protecting the coast from pirates. The dissenters were severely persecuted, and the King obtained considerable sums by heavy fines imposed in the Star-chamber.

After a long disuse of parliaments, Charles was obliged to call one in 1640; they renewed the complaint of grievances; extorted a favourable declaration from the King, and even obliged him to make the Parliament perpetual, unless they consented to their dissolution.

Wentworth, Earl of Stafford, and Laud bishop of Canterbury being the King's principal advisers, were both tried and beheaded at some distance of time from each other.

A rebellion broke out in Ireland, in which

which 150,000 Protestants were cruelly put to death in cold blood by the Papists pretending that they acted by the King's authority. This therefore was charged to the King's account, tho' he solemnly disclaimed it. In short, tumults between the King and Parliament now began to run high but the first act of hostility was the King appearing before Hull, and summoning Sir John Hotham, the Governor, to surrender which he absolutely refused.

King Charles then set up his standard at Nottingham; and the Parliament raised forces and made the Earl of Essex their General; and soon after a battle was fought near Edge-hill, in which each party claimed the victory, and about 5000 men were killed on both sides.

The next year the King's army was successful in several battles in the West of England; but his forces in the North were entirely routed at Marston-moor, and the King engaging with Essex again at Newbury was obliged to retreat with considerable loss.

In 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax was made General in Chief over the Parliament's forces, in the room of the Earl of Essex, and

Oliver Cromwell was appointed Lieutenant General; when the two armies coming to an engagement the Parliamentarians obtained complete victory.

The next year the King made his escape to the Scotch army; but the Scotch, after many debates, at last consented to deliver up his Majesty to the Parliament, in consideration of the sum of 400,000*l.* which was done at Newcastle, on the 30th of January, 1647, when he was escorted by Sir Thomas Fairfax, with 900 horses, to Holmby-house in Northamptonshire.

CROMWELL, who had distinguished himself by his military bravery, now ingratiated himself with the soldiery, and at length, became formidable to the Parliament itself. He introduced the officers, and some of the most sensible of the common soldiers into the House of Commons, under the name of Agitators; and Cromwell acted as their leader. They sent to Holmby and took the King into their hands; and at length brought him to St. James's, when an order was passed for bringing him to trial: accordingly a new Court was erected, called High Court of Justice. The president was John Bradshaw, Serjeant at Law. The King

King being several times brought before the Court and disowning its authority, sentence was pronounced against this unhappy Monarch, on the 27th of January 1649, and on the 30th of the same month it was put in execution; when his head was severed from his body, on a public scaffold at Whitehall. The King was in the 49th year of his age, and 24th of his reign, when he was thus cut off. On the scaffold he declared himself a Protestant, and denied he having any ill designs on his people. The Monarch had many private virtues, and would probably have been a worthy Prince had it not been for the principles imbibed in his education, and the ill advice of his Ministers.

His person was handsome, and he was of a healthy constitution of body.

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*The COMMONWEALTH of ENGLAND,
from 1649 to 1653.*

THE Parliament had no sooner destroyed the King, than they declared the Royal power dangerous, and voted the House of Lords useless. They next appointed 40 members of the executive power, under the title of *The Council of State*.

CROMWELL was then sent into Ireland to reduce the rebels; and in about nine months made great progress towards the reduction of that island; but the Scots revolting and falling over the young King, the Parliament sent for Cromwell in haste, and a battle was fought on the 3d of September 1651, at Worcester, in which Cromwell defeated the King's army. His Majesty on this fled to the house of William Penderel, at Bosconville, on the confines of Staffordshire, where he lodged at night in a garret, and in the day, sat in a large oak in an adjacent wood; at length he escaped to Normandy.

CROMWELL afterwards defeated the Scots at Dunbar, took Edinburgh castle, and entirely reduced that kingdom.

CROMWELL

CROMWELL, in 1652, set up a council of state, who some time after, gave him the title of *Lord Protector in England*.

The Commonwealth was long at war with the Dutch, and in several battles at sea the English distinguished themselves by an amazing intrepidity; in one of which the English with 116 ships, beat the Dutch who had 121.

CROMWELL made peace with the Dutch and joined France and Spain. He obtained Dunkirk, took Jamaica, and in short made his name universally formidable.

At length Cromwell died on the 3d. of September 1658, about which time, there was one of the most violent tempests ever known in England.

Soon after the Protector's death, the people turned their thoughts to the restoration of the Royal Authority and Family, which was brought about by General Monk; and King Charles II. was invited to England and proclaimed King, May 8, 1661. On the 28th he landed at Dover. and on the 29th made his public entry through London on horseback, attended by his two brothers James Duke of York, and Henry Duke of Gloucester.

c. XVI. CHARLES II. *Nominally*
from 1649, *actually* from 1660 to 1685.



y, sprightly, heedless, affable and lewd,
Charles' court few cares did long intrude;
Popish influence stain'd his latter day,
in plots and fines, and arbitrary sway.

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CHARLES

C H A R L E S II.

CHARLES II. was crowned on the 23^d of April 1661; one of the first laws passed in his reign was an act of indemnity excepting those personally concerned in the death of his father, and a few others.

King Charles was married to Catharina Infanta of Portugal; and in 1664, entered into a war with the Dutch in which several naval battles were fought, and in particular a very bloody one on the 3^d of June 1666 when Opdam, the Dutch Admiral, lost his life, together with his ship, and 19 others were either taken, burnt, or sunk; but in 1667, the Dutch sailed up the Medway, and even burnt many of our ships at Chatham soon after which a peace was concluded.

In 1678, one Titus Oates went into Spain and having informed himself of a plot formed by the Pope, the King of France, the Duke of York, and others, applied to Edmundbury Godfrey, a justice of peace in Westminster, and represented to him that they had formed a design to murder the king, and subvert the protestant religion.

England. On this Sir Edmundbury Godfrey took his deposition; but was soon after murdered, and his body found in a ditch. Several persons were tried and hanged for that murder.

The Presbyterians were then charged with a plot by the Papists; and for this pretended conspiracy, the brave Lord Russel, Colonel Sidney, and the Earl of Essex lost their lives.

In 1667, Lord Chancellor Hyde, whose daughter had been married to the Duke of York, was disgraced and went to France, where he wrote his history of the rebellion.

Though the Duke of York was a bigoted Papist, yet that was made so great a secret, that people were severely fined for mentioning it. The King seemed to espouse the interest of France more than his own; and even suffered Lewis XIV. to be supplied with British timber for building ships: and, being Dunkirk, which Cromwell had promised for England, employed the purchase-money in his pleasures.

King Charles died on the 6th of February 1685, in the 55th year of his age, after reigning twenty-four years, eight months

and nine days, and was buried in Westminster-Abbey.

This King had a swarthy complexion, severe and disagreeable countenance; he was tall, and admired for his great affability and easiness of access.

As during Cromwell's government, enthusiasm spread throughout the kingdom religion was now laid aside, and the small appearance of it was represented as ridiculous. In this reign Milton wrote his *Paradise Lost*, and Butler his *Hudibras*. Waller, Cowley, Dryden, and Roscommon also did honour to the nation by their writings.

In 1665 a plague carried off in London 70 or 80,000 persons. In 1666 was the dreadful fire which burnt above 13,000 houses, and 90 churches. In this reign, a person whose name was Blood, stole the crown, sceptre, and regalia, out of the Tower, but was discovered and taken. In 1683 there was so severe a frost from the middle of November to the 5th of February, that hackney coaches plied on the Thames.

XXVII. JAMES II. from 1685 to 1688



ended with zeal, this furious popish King,
me's yoke to England sought again to bring:
whilst he reign'd, usurp'd a lawless sway,
AME William came, and open'd freedom's day.

J A M E S II.

JAMES Duke of York was proclaimed King on the 6th of February 1688 without any great marks of joy being discovered. However, in the Privy Council he made a speech, promising to preserve the government both of the church and state yet he went publicly to mass two days after his accession.

The coronation of the King and Queen was solemnized on the 3d of April. Thomas Oates, the discoverer of the popish plot of the late reign, was now punished with excessive severity, though he protested the rancidity of his testimony. Mr. Dangerfield and Mr Richard Baxter also received severe treatment: the former for discovering a pretended plot, and the latter for reflecting on the Prelates.

The Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme in Dorsetshire with only 83 followers, on the 11th of June, and immediately published a declaration, That his sole motive for taking arms was to maintain the Protestant religion and to deliver the nation from the usurpation and

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tion and tyranny of James Duke of York, and that his mother was actually married to King Charles II. But this attempt did not meet with the desired success; he was taken prisoner, and beheaded on Tower-hill, on July 15, 1685.

Those who espoused his cause, were now butchered by military execution under General Kirk, or barbarously executed by a form of law under Judge Jefferies.

In short, about 600 persons were hanged by Jefferies, and the steeples, tower-gates, and roads, were stuck with the heads and limbs of those who had been the Duke's adherents.

Several arbitrary and scandalous proceedings were carried on against the Protestants at the instance of the King.

Mean while the Queen was said to be delivered of a Prince on the 10th of June 1688, though such measures were taken, as raised a suspicion of its being a design to impose an heir upon the kingdom. This event alienated the minds of the Princesses Mary and Anne, the King's own undisputed children by Lady Anne Hyde.

The Prince of Orange, Stadtholder of the United Provinces, had married Mary, King

James's eldest daughter, and was himself the son of that King's eldest sister; he naturally attracted the regard of the people of England, who applied to him for deliverance from the oppression and tyranny of James accordingly the Prince of Orange landed at Torbay on the 5th of November 1688, and was joyfully received by the people.

His Majesty now appointed commissioners to treat with the Prince of Orange about terms of accommodation. The Prince made his proposals with great moderation; but James chose to desert his kingdom rather than retract what he had done in favour of the Popish religion; and therefore went disguised, and embarked in a vessel near Faversham in Kent, where he was stopped by some fishermen and brought back to London; however, he fled a second time, and escaped into France in December 1688. He afterwards made a fruitless attempt upon Ireland; and spent the last twelve years of his life at St. Germain's, where Lewis XIV. allowed him a pension of about 50,000 sterling per annum. At length, he died 1701, in the 68th year of his age.



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XXVII. WILLIAM the THIRD and
MARY the SECOND, from 1688 to 1702.



WILLIAM the hero, with MARIA mild,
He James's nephew, she his eldest child,
Giv'd freedom and the church, reform'd the coin;
Oppos'd the French, and settled Brunswick's line.

WILLIAM III. and MARY II.

UPON King James's departure, the Lords and Commons agreed, after much dispute, that he had abdicated the throne. Then the Princess Mary and the Prince of Orange were proclaimed King and Queen on the 13th of February 1689, and crowned on the 11th of April following.

An attempt was made to secure Scotland for King James; but on the 26th of May 1689, the two armies met at Killcranky, in the shire of Perth, when Lieutenant-General Mackay, who commanded for King William, obtained a victory; after which the whole island of Great Britain submitted to King William.

In Ireland, Tyrconnel had disarmed the Protestants in great part of the kingdom and formed an army of Papists, amounting to 30 000 foot and 8000 horse, while the Protestants in the North took up arms for King William. Mean while, James made his public entry into Dublin, and soon after put himself at the head of 20,000 men and was twice reinforced by the French with

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5000 men each time. James's forces were defeated in many battles; and at length King William arriving in person, he gained a complete victory over James at the battle of the Boyne, and thereby established himself on the throne of Ireland.

James then left Dublin, and going to Waterford, took shipping for France, where he spent the remainder of his days at St. Germain's, living upon the bounty of Lewis XIV. and an annual pension of 4000l. sterling, which he received secretly from his daughter Mary. He died at St. Germain's in 1701.

Soon after the battle of the Boyne, King William returned to England; but another battle was fought June 30, 1691, at Aughrim, between the English commanded by General Ginkle, and the Irish assisted by the French; when the English gained a complete victory. After which Galway surrendered and Limerick capitulated; and thus an end was put to the war in Ireland.

About this time King William formed a grand alliance against Lewis XIV. and headed the allied armies in several battles; at length the French made overtures of peace and

172 WILLIAM III. and MARY II.

and the treaty was concluded at Ryſwick in 1697.

Whilst the King was thus engaged abroad, his illuſtrious Queen died December 28, 1694, and was greatly lamented on account of her uncommon goodneſs.

Several conſpiracies were formed in favour of James during King William's reign, the moſt remarkable of which, was the aſſaſination plot, for murdering that Prince in his coach: for which Sir John Fenwick, Sir John Friend, Sir William Perkins, and others were executed.

King William was thrown from his horſe by which his collar bone was diſlocated, and he died on the 8th of March 1702, in the 14th year of his reign, and 52d. of his age and was interred next to the Queen in Henry the VIII's chapel.

King William was of a brown complexion, had a Roman noſe and a piercing eye was of a middle ſtature, and round ſhouldered. One of the laſt acts of his life was ſigning the bill for ſettling the crown on the illuſtrious Houſe of Hanover, in caſe Princeſs Anne of Denmark, who had a little before buried the Duke of Glouceſter, died without iſſue.



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years of glory brighten'd ANNA's reign.
While Marlborough's arms did victory obtain:
Should hard censure shade her closing scene;
tho' mist, well-meaning was the Queen.

ANNE.

A N N E.

THE crown devolved to the Princess Anne, daughter of James II. by Lady Anne Hyde, daughter of Lord Chancellor Clarendon. This Princess was born at St James's, February 16, 1695; was married to George Prince of Denmark, July 28, 1683; and was crowned April 23, 1702.

War was declared against France and Spain on the 4th of May, by the Queen, the Emperor, and the States-general: But the actions were so numerous, that it would be impossible, in the narrow compass we are here confined to, to mention particular every engagement.

The Duke of Marlborough in 1702, led to the field the army of the allies, consisting of 53,000 foot and 7,200 horse. He took the first campaign, Venlos Ruremond, Stephenfweart and Liege.

Sir George Rook, the same year attempted to take a number of galleons at Vigo, but the French set their ships on fire, eleven of which were burnt, and ten taken by the English.

On the 2d of August 1704, Marlborough gained a most glorious victory at Blenheim, in which the French had 12,000 men killed, and 14,000 made prisoners, among whom was Marshal Tallard, seven generals, and 200 other officers; and near 300 squadrons, were drowned in the Danube.

Sir George Rook took Gibraltar, after a siege of two days, on July 4, 1704. Next year Marlborough with 74,000 defeated the French and Bavarians consisting of 75,960. The same year the brave Earl of Peterborough took Barcelona; and next raised the siege of St. Matheo, and with 1200 men obliged 7000 to fly, took Morviedro, and seized Valencia.

On May 12, 1706, Marlborough, with 50,180 men, attacked the French and Bavarians, 61,120 strong, and in less than two hours, put their whole army to flight. The enemy had 8000 killed, 4000 wounded, and 6000 taken prisoners.

Marlborough and Prince Eugene, July 11, 1706, defeated the whole French army at Denard. The French had 4000 killed and wounded, and 7000 taken prisoners; while the confederates had only 820 men killed. The Duke soon after took Lille, re-

relieved Brussels, and obliged Ghent to surrender. During these transactions, Major General Stanhope, with 3000 men, landed at Minorca, and took fort St. Philip in three days; and the whole island was conquered in three weeks, with the loss of only 40 men.

In 1711, the Duke took Borchain, and made the garrison prisoners of war; and this was the last service performed in the field by the immortal Duke of Marlborough, who, in the course of ten victorious campaigns, had the honour of receiving ten times the thanks of both houses of parliament; and was at last, on the change of Ministry, dismissed from all his employments. These wars were at length concluded by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713.

Parties now ran very high, and these animosities, it is thought, shortened the day of the Queen, who died at Kensington August 1, 1714, in the 50th year of her age, and the 13th of her reign, having lost her royal consort Prince George about 14 years before. She was privately interred in King Henry the VIIIth's chapel.

In this reign the kingdoms of England and Scotland were united.

XXX. GEORGE

X. GEORGE I. from 1714 to 1727



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 d alike to council and the field,
 we his sway, law opposition yield.
 England wisdom and the laws be put his trust,
 cautious, steady, fortunate and just.
 GEORGE M GEORGE

G E O R G E I.

ON the death of Queen Anne, the Privy Council gave orders, that the Elector of Hanover should be proclaimed King; and he was crowned on the 11th of October following. His Majesty immediately made several changes in the Ministry; and the Duke of Marlborough was restored to his former posts.

Mean while, the Pretender asserted his claim to the crown, and it soon appeared that James the son of King James II. had a considerable party in England. John Egmont, Duke of Mar, with several other noble men and gentlemen, assembled at the Breach of Mar, and on September 16, proclaimed the Pretender King, and their numbers soon increased to 12,000 men. The Earl of Derby went to water and Mr Forester assembled the friends in Northumberland, and Forester declared the Pretender King at Warkworth. Meanwhile, Lord Viscount Kenmure headed some noblemen and others in the west of Scotland, and at the same time declared the Pretender King at Moffat in Annandale.

Kenmure joined Forester on the borders of Scotland.

At length M'Intosh, Kenmure and Forester marched to Preston in Lancashire; but the Generals Willis and Carpenter, with nine regiments of dragoons, and one of foot, surrounded the places; when Forester submitted, and delivered up all his men prisoners at discretion.

On the 22d. of December, the Pretender landed at Peterhead, and was conducted to Fetteresso, where he was proclaimed King. The Duke of Argyle, in January 1716, obliged the rebels to abandon Perth; from whence they returned to Montrose, where the Pretender privately made his escape to France; upon which General Gordon led them into the Mountains, where they were dispersed.

Of the great number who were sentenced to die for this rebellion, none were executed, except the Lord Derwentwater and Kenmure, and a small number of the lower rank.

In 1718, war was declared against Spain, when Sir George Byng was sent with 21 ships into the Mediterranean; and on July 31, he defeated the Spanish Admiral, took ten men of war, and burnt four, and even made

the Admiral and Rear Admiral prisoners. After which he destroyed seven Spanish men of war, and great quantities of naval stores on the coast of Scilly and Biscay.

In December, a Spanish Squadron, with 10,000 regular troops under the Duke of Ormond, was sent to invade England; but were dispersed by a violent storm. However, the Marquis of Tullybardine, and the Earls of Seaforth and Marischal, with 307 Spanish soldiers, landed in Scotland, and were joined by 2000 Highlanders; but general Wightman with 1200 men, on the 10th of June, entirely defeated them.

Lord Cobham then made a descent upon Spain and took Vigo.

In 1727, his Majesty set out for his German dominions; but was taken ill in his coach on the road to Hanover, and died two days after at his brother's palace at Osnaburgh, on the 11th of June, in the 68th year of his age, and the 13th of his reign, and was interred at Hanover.

King George I. was of a moderate stature; his features were regular and manly, and his countenance grave and majestic. He was an able and experienced general, and consummate politician.

XXXI. GEORGE

XXXI. GEORGE II. from 1727 to 1760



Issue, happiest of the kingly strain:
 triumphant o'er rebellion and its train;
 the silence'd faction, humbled France's pride,
 the low'd below'd, and crown'd with glory dy'd.

G E O R G E II.

AS his late Majesty died abroad, his death was not known till the 14th of June 1727, and his Majesty King George II. was the next morning, proclaimed King, and he with his Queen was crowned at Westminster, on the 11th of October.

His Majesty found the nation engaged in a war with the Spaniards; but in 1729, a peace was concluded at Seville between Great Britain, France and Spain.

On October 20, 1739, war was declared by England against Spain; and on November 22, 1740, Admiral Vernon, with six ships took Porto Bello. The next year he was sent with 29 ships of the line, with 10 000 soldiers, under the command of Gen. Wentworth, to attack Carthagena; but tho' he destroyed six Spanish ships of the line, and seven galleons, the attempt miscarried thro' a disagreement between the Admiral and the General.

Commodore Anson sailed from England with five men of war in 1740, and after having suffered the most dreadful distresses

surprize

surprized and took Paita on the 12th of November, 1741, and having plundered and burnt the town, and seized several Spanish ships, he on his return, by the way of the East Indies, took the Manilla galleon, loaded with treasure. He arrived in England in 1744, with the riches he had acquired from the Spaniards, amounting to about 100,000l.

His present Majesty George the II. powerfully supported the Queen of Hungary's accession to the hereditary dominions of her father the Emperor Charles VI. and at length England and France, under the name of auxiliaries to the contending parties, became principals in the war: when the Britannic Majesty not only furnished 16,000 British troops, but in person headed the allied army in Germany, accompanied by the Duke of Cumberland; and a battle was fought at Dettingen, June 16, 1743, when the King of Great Britain had the glory of the field. The Duke of Cumberland was wounded in the action.

In 1744, war was declared against France: and in 1745, the people of New-England, assisted by ten men of war under Commodore Warren, took Cape-Breton, with the

loss of only 100 men; but were afterward obliged to part with it for Madras.

On the 14th of July the young Pretender sailed to Scotland in a small frigate, and landed there on the 27th of July. He soon obtained a considerable force, and proceeding through several parts of Scotland, his father proclaimed King, while he himself assumed the title of Prince-Regent. He took several places, and gained some advantages over the King's forces sent against him; but at length the Duke of Cumberland went to Edinburgh, and took the command of the army, and on the 15th of April came to an engagement near Culloden-house and obtained a complete victory, in which about 1400 of the rebels were killed, wounded and taken prisoners, tho' the royal army had only 60 men killed, and 280 wounded. The Earl of Kilmarnock, Lord Balmerino, Lord Lovat, and Mr Radcliffe, brother of the late Earl of Derwentwater, were afterwards beheaded on Tower-Hill for this rebellion.

Hostilities at length ceased in Flanders and a general peace was proclaimed in London, February 2, 1749. The French, however, soon broke the peace by erecting fort

on the back of the British settlements in America, and in 1754, attempted to seize Nova Scotia : these depredations brought on several engagements, which were attended with various success.

Mean while the French landed 17,000 men in Minorca. which was defended by General Blakeney. His Majesty declared war against France on the 1st of May 1756, and sent Admiral Byng with a strong fleet to the relief of Minorca; but he neglecting to fulfil his instructions, the place was lost, and he was tried and shot at Portsmouth.

During these transactions, colonel Clive distinguished himself in the East Indies; and all the towns and factories belonging to the French on the coast of Coromandel, except only Pondicherry, were in a few years taken by the British.

In 1758 the Duke of Marlborough landing near St Maloes in France, burnt many ships, with a great quantity of naval stores. Lieutenant-General Bligh and Captain (now Lord) Howe took Cherburgh, and demolished its fortifications. Soon after Captain Marsh took Senegal, and Commodore Keppel took the island of Goree, on the coast of

of Africa. On the 26th of July, Cape Breton was again taken by General Amherst and Admiral Boscawen. Soon after fort Fortenac surrendered to Lieutenant General Bradstreet and fort du Quesne to General Forbes.

On May 1, 1759, the valuable island of Gaudaloupe, surrendered to the British, and the same month Marigalante, Santos and Descada, became subject to Britain. And the same year, the French lost Quebec, the capital of Canada.

In 1760, Thurot landing with three frigates in the bay of Carrickfergus, they were all taken by Captain Elliot, and on Sept. 8, Montreal and all Canada submitted to the British. But after these glorious conquests his Majesty King George II. to the inexpressible grief of his people, died at Kensington, on the 25th of October, in the 77th year of his age, and the 34th. of his reign; and the next day his present most gracious Majesty was proclaimed King by the name of George III.

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